



STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

#46-SEPT.

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FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

FAR BELOW THE SURFACE LAY AN AGE-OLD SECRET... A SECRET THAT CHALLENGED ALL HUMAN-KIND! FOR THE STARTLING FACTS, READ... **"The GIRL at the BOTTOM of the SEA!"**

GREAT SCOTT, THEY'RE **MERMEN...** ATTACKING!



OGDEN WHITNEY



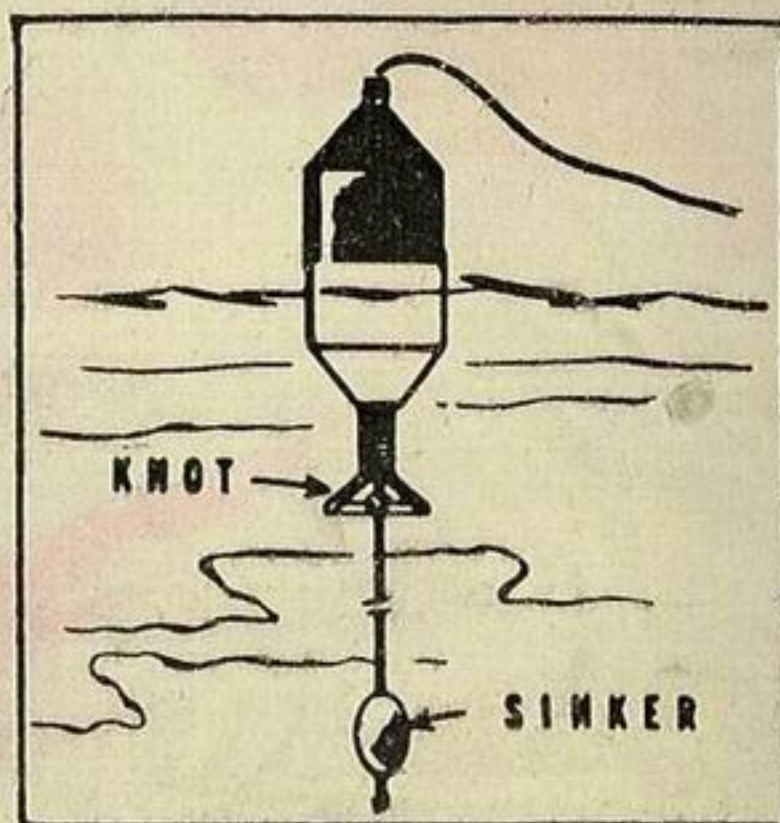
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YOUR FISH AUTOMATICALLY THE INSTANT HE BITES**

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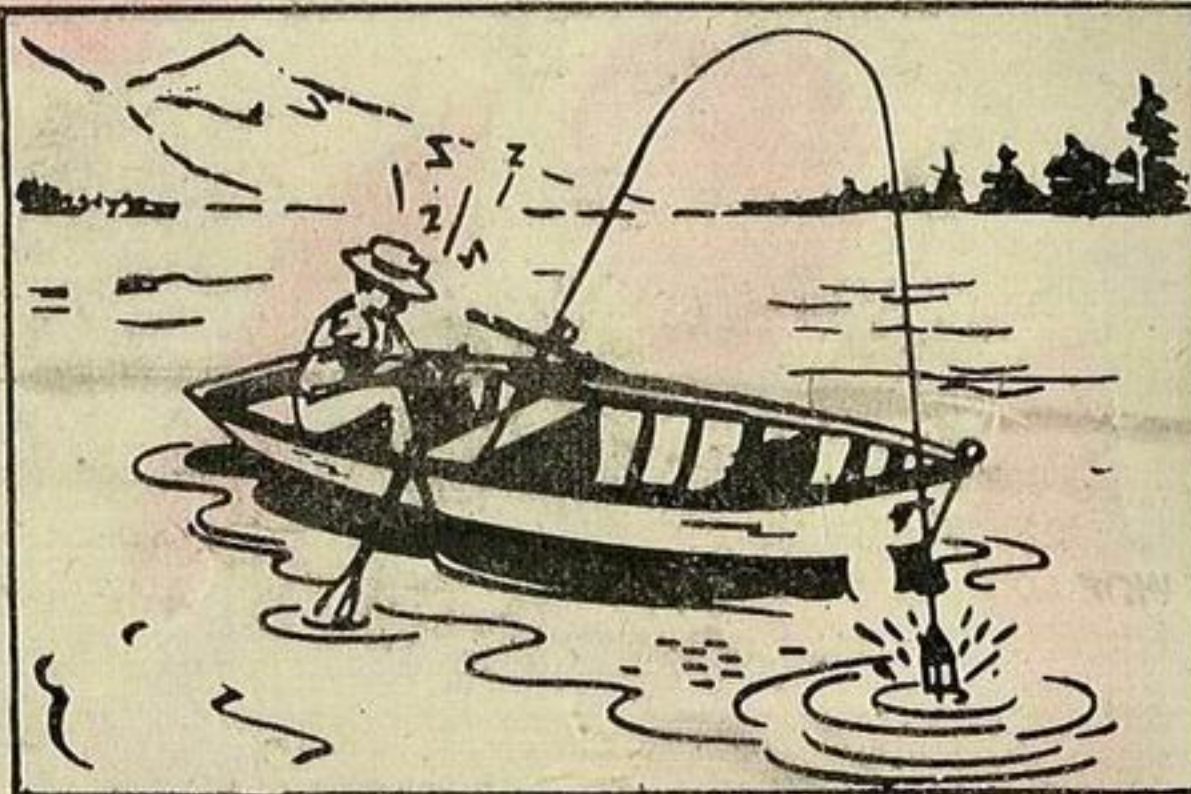
Cast more effectively with Bob-O-Matic than with ordinary floating rigs because the weight is concentrated in one place close to the sinker and the baited hook.

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- Slip line casts more effectively than ordinary float rig.
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YOU'VE READ MANY A STRANGE STORY OF ANCIENT MYSTERY, MANY A BREATHLESS TALE OF THE TEEMING UNKNOWN! BUT HERE'S ONE THAT TOPS THEM ALL! FOR SHEER AMAZEMENT AND GRIPPING SUSPENSE, YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

The GIRL at the BOTTOM of the SEA!



OUR STORY BEGINS AT THE HEIGHT OF WORLD WAR II! A NAZI NAVAL SQUADRON FOUND ITSELF UNDER SUDDEN ATTACK...



THE ASSAILANT WAS A LONE AMERICAN SUBMARINE...



IT TOOK AUDACITY TO TACKLE A POWERFUL SQUADRON--AND THE NAZIS FOUGHT BACK WITH OVERWHELMING STRENGTH...



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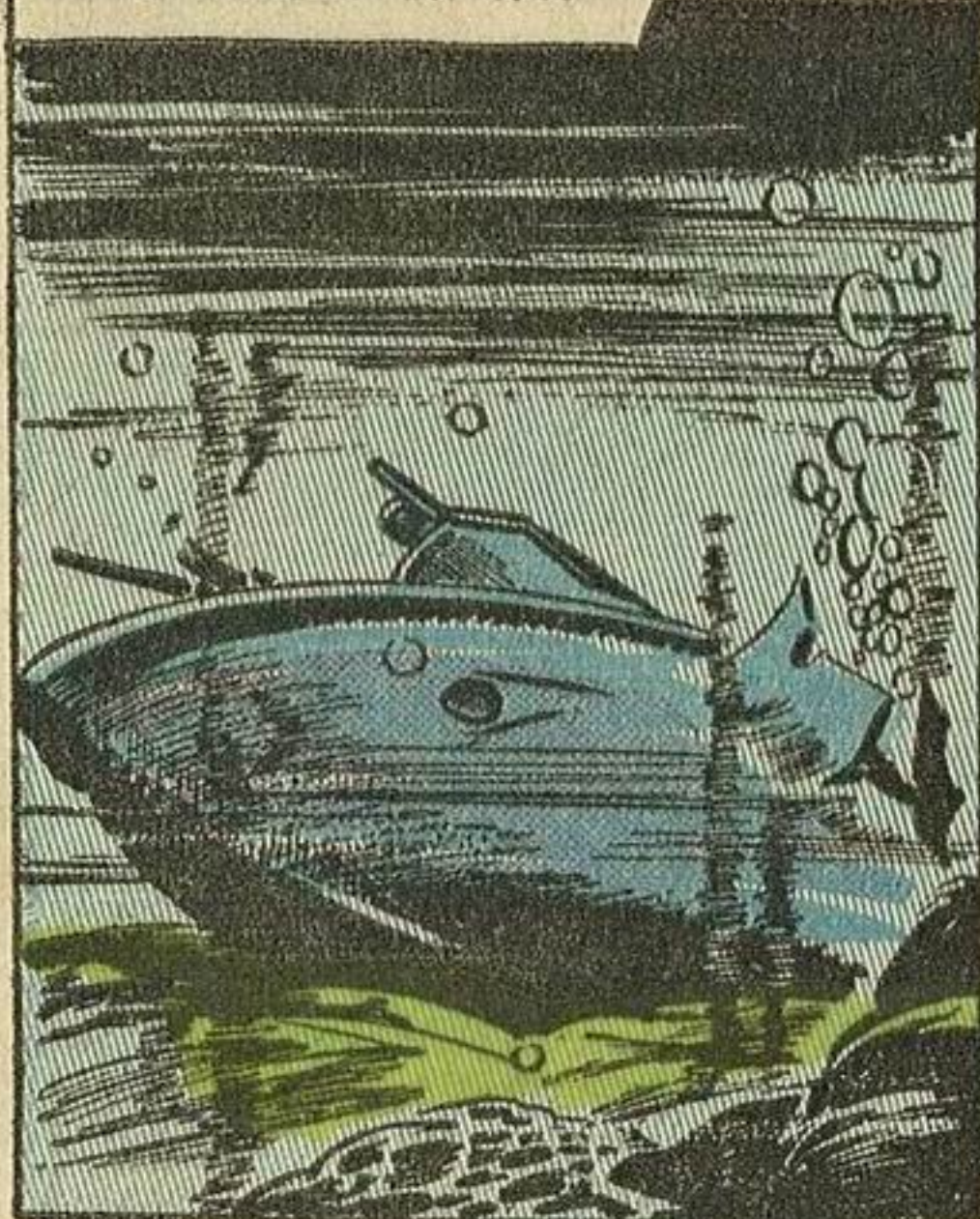
THEY...THEY'VE GOT US STRADDLED!
WE MAY GET AWAY WITH IT...UNLESS
THERE'S A DIRECT HIT...



BUT THEY WEREN'T TO BE SPARED THAT
LETHAL DIRECT HIT...



AND NOW SHE LAY LIKE A STRICKEN THING
ON THE FLOOR OF THE OCEAN...WITH NOT A
LIVING SOUL LEFT ABOARD...



CORRECTION, PLEASE! ONE MAN *DID*
REMAIN ALIVE...LIEUTENANT J.G. THOMAS
ANDREWS, WHO HAD MANAGED TO ESCAPE
TO A WATERTIGHT COMPARTMENT...



AS HIS HEAD CLEARED, THE REALIZATION
OF HIS AWFUL PREDICAMENT CAME TO
HIM...

THE ONLY SURVIVOR...BUT
FOR *HOW LONG?* ONLY UNTIL
THE AIR GIVES OUT IN THIS
COMPARTMENT...AND
THEN...



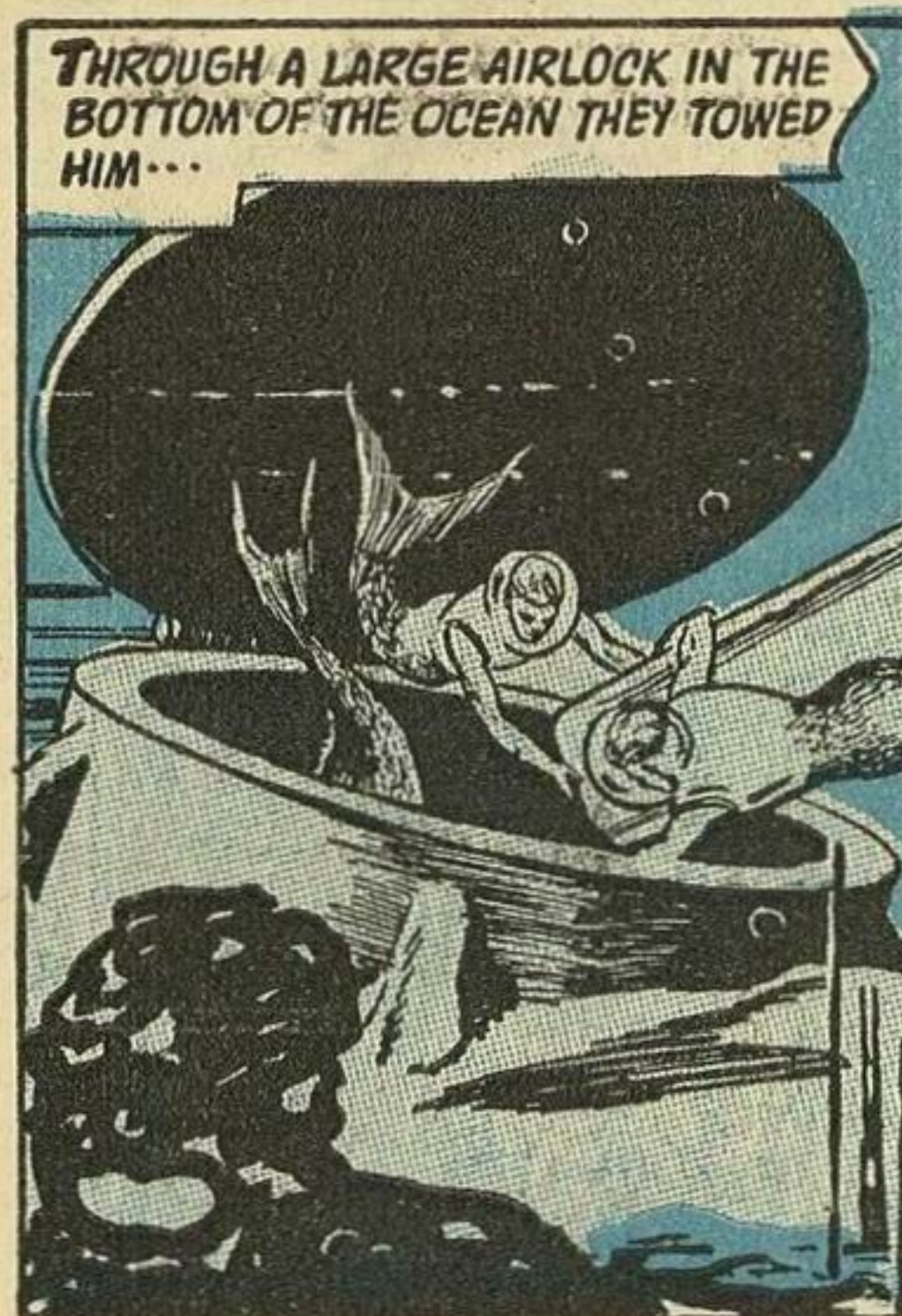
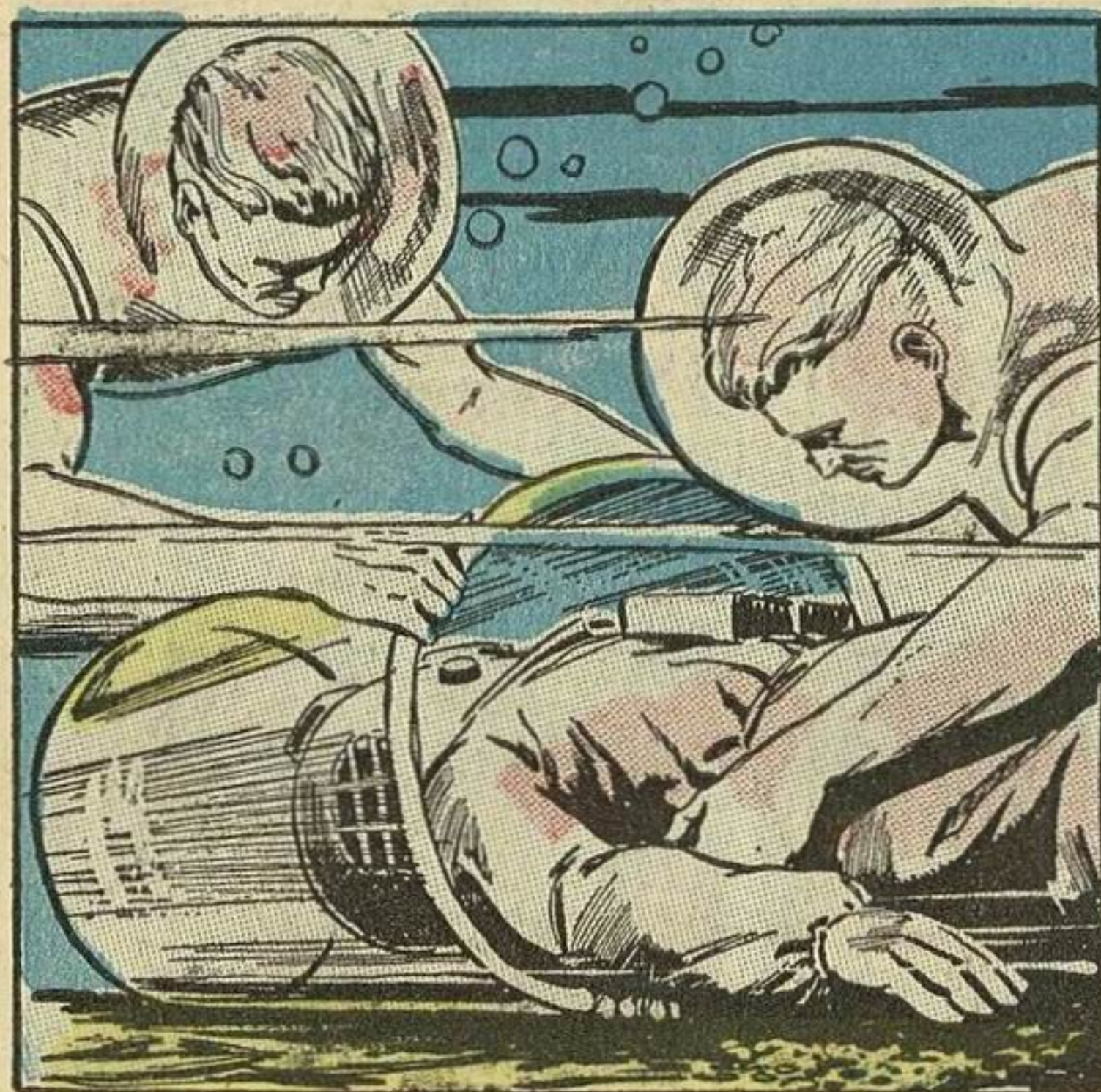
THE CERTAINTY OF HIS FATE DROVE HIM TO A DESPERATE
MEASURE...

THE ESCAPE LOCK WILL LET ME
OUT INTO THE OCEAN...WHERE THE
PRESSURE'S SURE TO FINISH ME!
BUT ANYWAY, IT'LL BE QUICK...I'LL
BE SPARED THE SUFFERING OF
HAVING TO *WAIT!*



AND SO...







HIS EYES...
THEY'RE
OPENING!

OUR DRUGS CAN
RESTORE HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING
EVEN TO SUCH A
BRUTE AS THIS!



HATRED WAS IN THEIR VOICES! THERE
WAS NO WAY OF LEARNING WHY...FOR
WITHIN MOMENTS, SOLDIERS HAD TAKEN
OVER...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
YOU'RE TAKING ME--BUT YOU
DON'T HAVE TO BE SO
GOSH-DURNED
ROUGH ABOUT
IT!



I--I GUESS I SHOULD
THANK YOUR SUBJECTS
FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

WE SCORN
THE THANKS
OF A MEMBER
OF YOUR
MURDEROUS
BREED!



I DON'T CARE WHO YOU
ARE--NOBODY TALKS
THAT WAY TO ME! I'LL...

YOU DARE PLACE
YOUR MISERABLE HANDS
ON TA-ZAKEN?



I'LL
TEACH YOU,
WRETCH!

WHAM!



I CONSIGN THE CREATURE
TO YOUR CARE, ROMA! I
KNOW NO ONE BETTER AT
EXTRACTING WHATEVER
KNOWLEDGE OF VALUE
HE MAY POSSESS!



IT'S...YOU!
BUT...YOU'RE NOT
A MERMAID...

SILENCE!
YOUR JOB IS
ONLY TO
ANSWER
QUESTIONS!



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF AN ORDEAL FOR TOM--A PROTRACTED
CROSS-EXAMINATION WHICH WOULD HAVE PUT THE GESTAPO
ITSELF TO SHAME! DAY AFTER DAY IT CONTINUED...

TELL ME...HOW DO
YOU CREATURES
GOVERN
YOURSELVES?

WE HAVE A CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
A LEGISLATURE AND A JUDICIARY
--ALL ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE!
AND ALL COOPERATE TO ACHIEVE
AMERICAN JUSTICE AND
FAIR PLAY!

YES---I KNOW WHAT JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY MEAN AMONG **YOUR** KIND! NOW TELL ME---THE **RADAR** YOU USE IN DEFENSE---HOW DOES IT WORK?

MY COUNTRY'S AT WAR---AND I'D HAVE TO TO BE A **TRAITOR** TO PASS ON SUCH SECRET INFORMATION! **I REFUSE TO ANSWER!**

SO---YOU **DEFY** ME! I'VE BUT TO SUMMON THE GUARDS---AND YOU'LL BE EXECUTED AT ONCE!

GO AHEAD! I'D HAVE DIED IF YOU HADN'T BROUGHT ME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO I FIGURE I'M LIVING ON BORROWED TIME ANYWAY! DO YOUR WORST--- I **STILL** WON'T TALK!

SOMETIMES YOU'RE A LITTLE--- **SURPRISING!** FAR DIFFERENT THAN I'D EXPECTED FROM A MEMBER OF YOUR VICIOUS RACE!

LOOK---DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT EVERYBODY DOWN HERE'S GOT AGAINST MY PEOPLE? I ADMIT THAT SOME OF US MAY BE PRETTY ORNERY--- BUT A LOT OF OTHERS ARE DARNED GOOD! WHAT WRONG DID WE EVER DO **YOU?**

ROMA'S EYES WERE DISTANT, AND THERE WAS PAIN IN THEM! AT FIRST, HER WORDS CAME SLOWLY---

KNOW THAT OUR RACE IS A PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION, EVEN AS IS YOURS! OUR STARTING POINT MUST HAVE BEEN A FISH, VAGUELY HUMAN IN SHAPE---

"...AND AS THE COUNTLESS AGES PASSED, WE BECAME AMPHIBIAN---BREATHING BOTH AIR AND WATER! WE WERE HUMAN THEN---AT LEAST PARTIALLY---BUT WE STILL BORE THE TAILS OF OUR FOREBEARS..."

THE AEONS PASSED---AND IN OUR LAND BENEATH THE OCEAN, WE BUILT A GREAT CIVILIZATION! BY THIS TIME, WE HAD EVOLVED YET FURTHER, AND WERE PEOPLE, TO ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, JUST LIKE YOURSELF---

OCCASIONALLY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE THROWBACKS AMONG US, BORN IN THE IMAGE OF EARLIER ANCESTORS, AND BEARING THE MARK OF THE FISH! SUCH A THROWBACK WAS LO-GARA, OUR GREATEST RULER! HE LIVED A CENTURY AGO--- A VERITABLE SAINT---

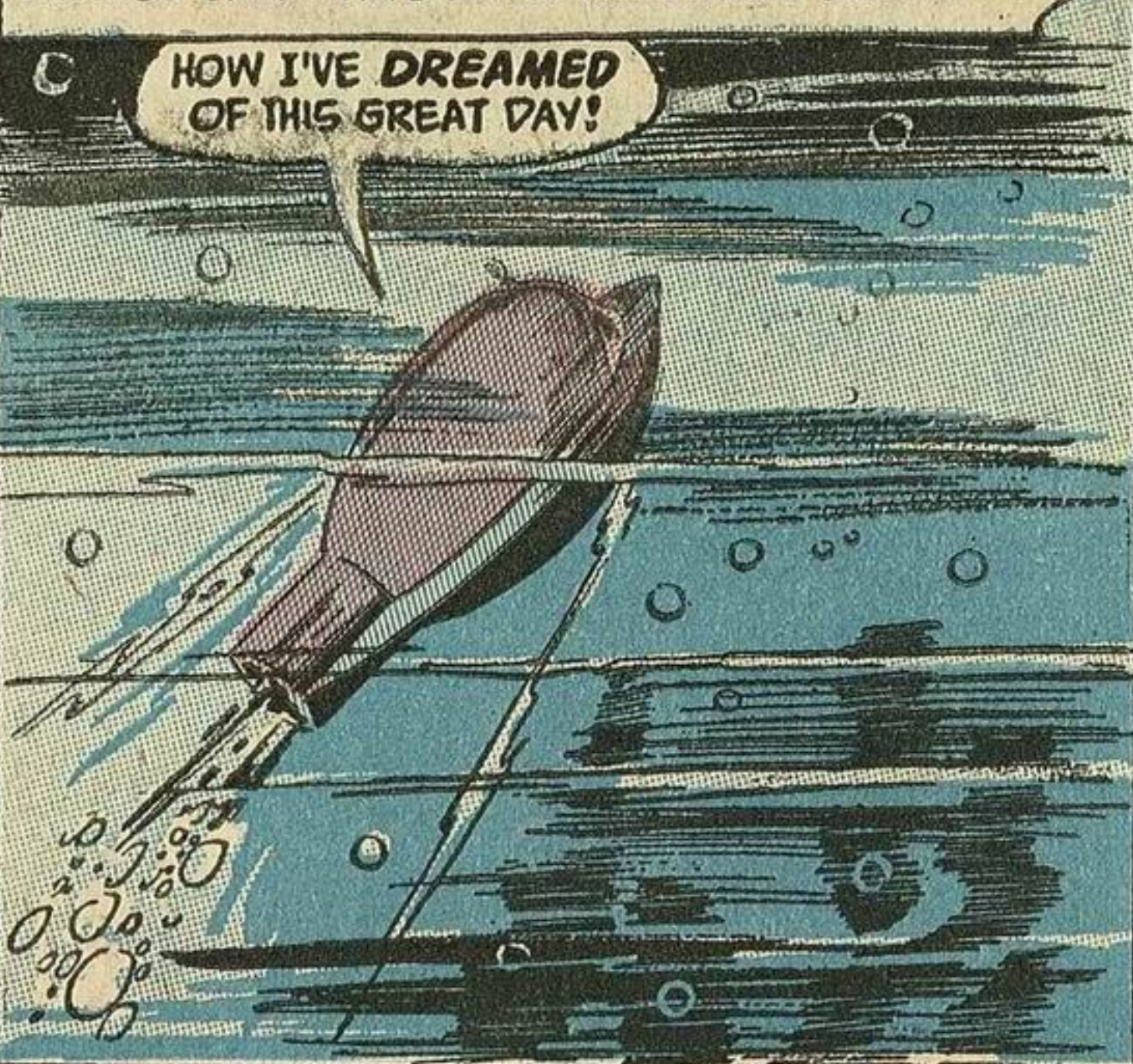
WE MUST SHARE OUR PROGRESS WITH OUR BROTHERS WHO LIVE ABOVE THE SEA, AND KNOW NAUGHT EVEN OF OUR EXISTENCE! SOMEDAY I'LL FIND A WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM---

AND HE FOUND THE WAY, GREAT THINKER AND CREATOR THAT HE WAS! HE DEvised A CRAFT THAT COULD WITHSTAND THE AWFUL PRESSURE OF THE DEPTHS, AND CARRY LIVING PERSONS IN SAFETY TO THE SURFACE---



AT LAST I SHALL SEE THEM... THE LANDS ABOVE THE DEPTHS... AND THEIR PEOPLES...

WITH THE MOST TRUSTED OF HIS COURT, HE ENTERED THE STRANGE CREATION, STARTED HIS UPWARD JOURNEY---



HOW I'VE DREAMED OF THIS GREAT DAY!

"THEY HAD STARTED FROM A DISTANT POINT IN OUR EMPIRE... AND SURFACED DIRECTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF YOUR HARBORS..."

HUH? WHAT DO YOU FIGGER THAT CAN BE?



MERMAN!
MERMAN!



"THEY DIDN'T EVEN GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO TALK! WILDLY, THEY FELL UPON HIM, BATTLING BACK HIS COURTIERSS..."

GET BACK!
HE'S OURS!



LO-GARA, OUR GREATEST MONARCH... THE GENIUS WHO WISHED ONLY TO BENEFIT THE WORLD... DO YOU KNOW HIS END? A PITIFUL CAPTIVE IN A CHEAP SIDESHOW---

STEP THIS WAY, LA-DEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! SEE THE ONE AND ONLY, THE ORIGINAL MERMAN FROM THE DEPTHS---



MERCIFULLY, THE END CAME FAST FOR HIM! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT, FROM THAT DAY ON, WE HAVE HAD ONLY BITTERNESS AND HATRED FOR THE SURFACE PEOPLE?

I... SEE! THEN WHY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE, BRING ME HERE?



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

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100 TOY SOLDIERS,

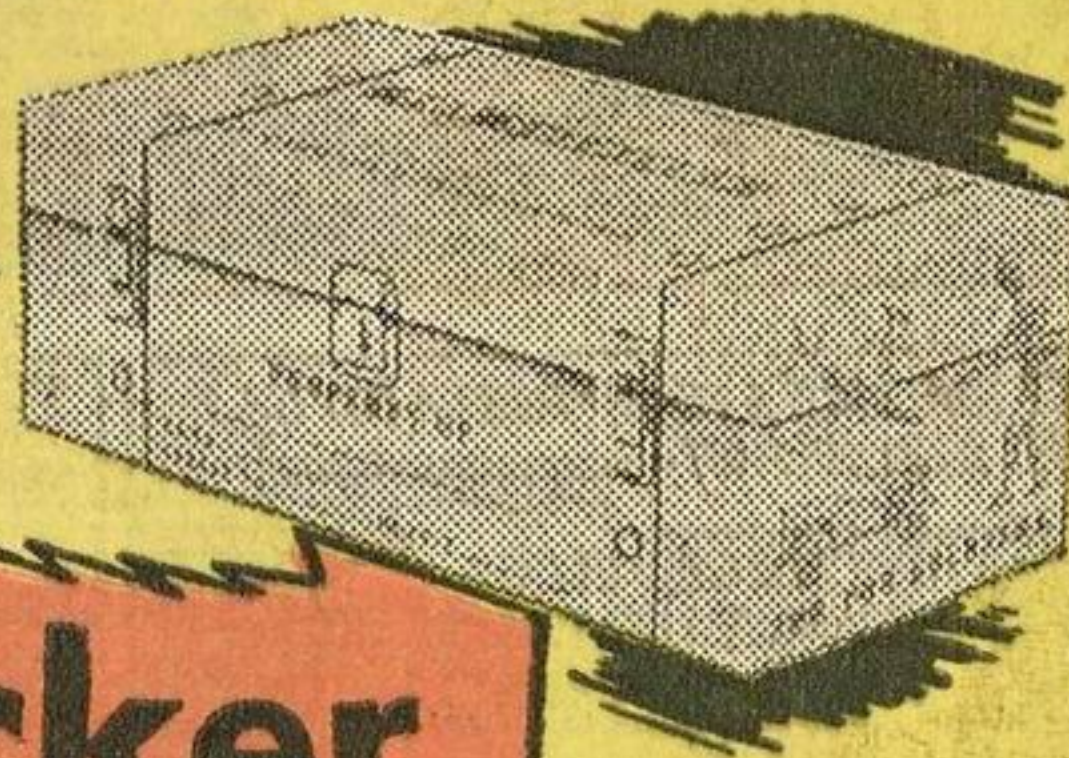
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FOOTLOCKER
CONTAINS:

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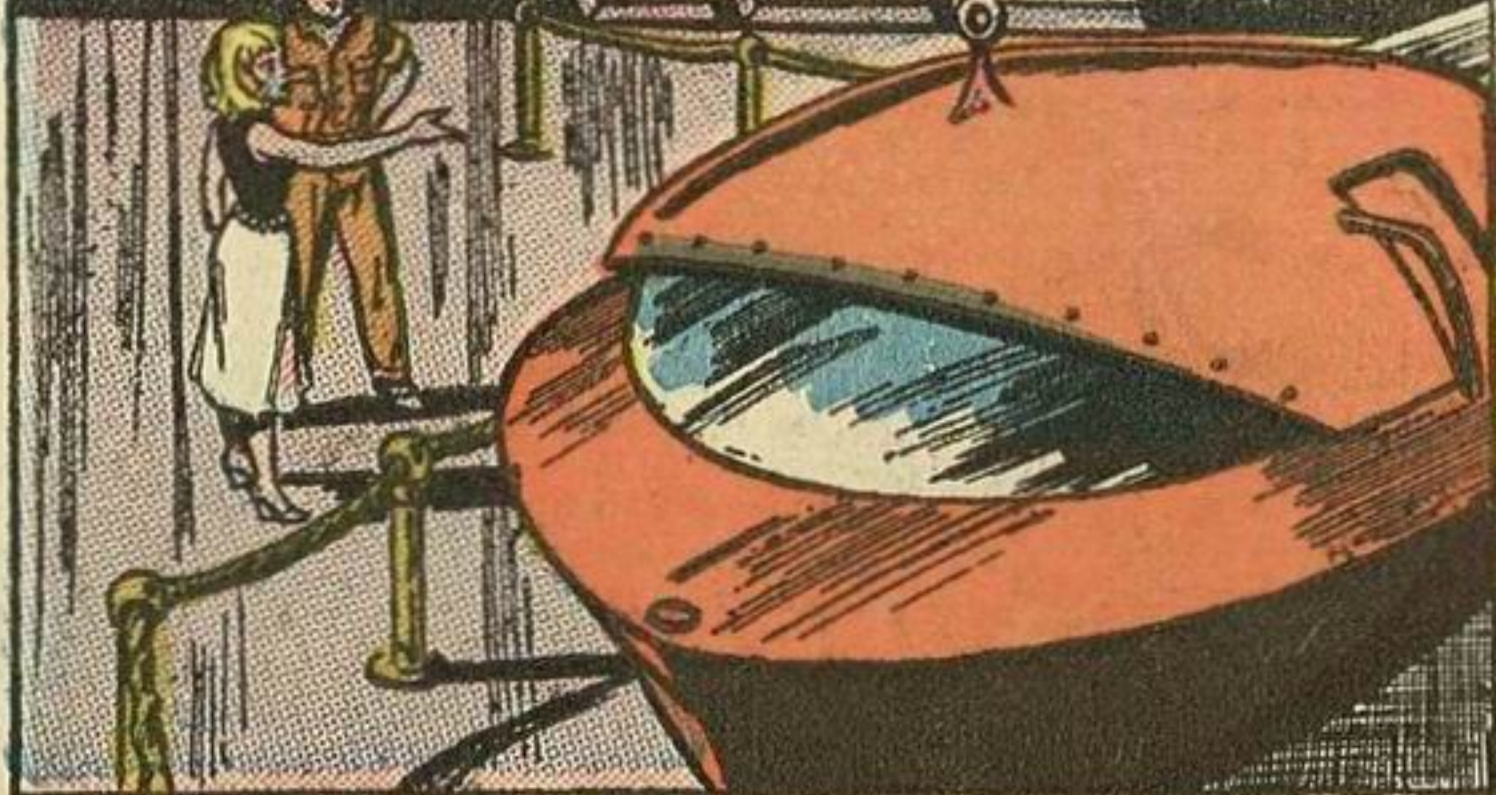
IT'S RARELY THAT ONE OF YOUR KIND FALLS INTO OUR HANDS...THE LAST ONE WAS DURING YOUR FIRST WORLD WAR, ALSO FROM A WRECKED SUBMARINE! WE USE YOU TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR CIVILIZATION, TO HELP ADVANCE OUR OWN!



SO THAT WAS THE REASON HE WAS BEING KEPT ALIVE! AND NOW ROMA LENT POINT TO HER STORY BY SHOWING HIM THE VERY CRAFT IN WHICH THE MERMAN RULER HAD VENTURED TO THE SURFACE...

HERE IT IS, A CENTURY LATER--A MUSEUM PIECE!

I...I DON'T HAVE WORDS TO EXPRESS MY HORROR AND REGRET, ROMA! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN'T CONDEMN AN ENTIRE RACE FOR THE ACTIONS OF AN EVIL FEW!



PERHAPS SHE PERCEIVED THE JUSTICE OF HIS WORDS...FOR FROM THEN ON, SHE WAS GENTLER, KINDER...AND SEEMED TO VIEW HIM AS A PERSON LIKE HERSELF...

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, OUR ARTS ARE FURTHER ADVANCED THAN YOURS! YOU'D LIKE OUR LITERATURE, ROMA--AND THE BEAUTY OF OUR POETRY...

TOM--YOU'RE NOT...AS I PICTURED YOUR ENTIRE RACE WOULD BE! THERE'S...**HUMANITY** IN YOU!



NOW SHE BEGAN TELLING HIM THINGS...THINGS ABOUT HER STRANGE SUBSEA EMPIRE...

WE WEAR **THESE** ON OUR REGULAR PATROLS OF THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM--TRANSPARENT PLASTIC SUITS WITH BUILT-IN OXYGEN SUPPLY AND A SIMULATED FISH TAIL FOR EASIER SWIMMING! I'M GOING OUT ON A PATROL NOW--IF YOU'D LIKE TO TRY ONE, COME ALONG!

WOULD I!



IT WAS LIKE A WEIRD DREAM OUT OF THE FABLED PAST...

BETTER STAY CLOSE BEHIND ME! NO TELLING **WHAT** YOU CAN RUN INTO DOWN HERE!



THERE WAS A WILD FREEDOM ABOUT IT ALL! TOM EXULTED IN THE EERIE EXPERIENCE...UNTIL...

OH-HH...**LOOK!**



IT WAS A HUGE OCTOPUS, MOVING IN ON THEM RELENTLESSLY! THEY WERE TRAPPED AGAINST THE WRECKAGE OF AN ANCIENT SHIP--BUT EVEN THAT COULDN'T BEGIN TO ACCOUNT FOR ROMA'S TERRIBLE PANIC...

HELP ME...**HELP ME...**

DON'T BE AFRAID--I WON'T LET IT GET AT YOU!



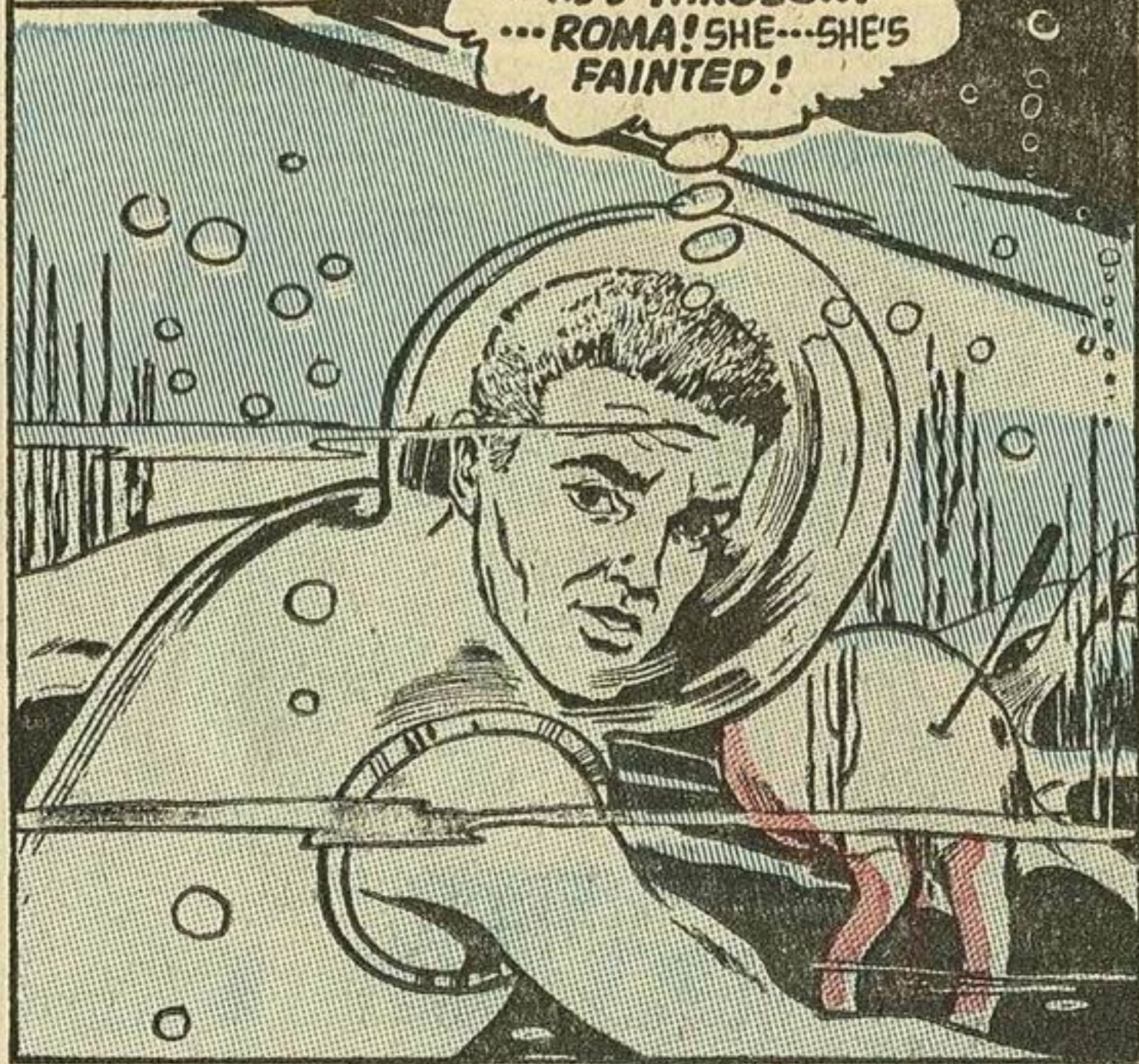
IT WAS A BATTLE TO THE DEATH! TOM CALLED UPON ALL HIS LITTLE STRENGTH-- DOUBTING THAT IT WOULD BE ENOUGH--



BACK, YOU DEVIL!

BUT FINALLY---

I GOT HIM, ROMA
---HE'S THROUGH!
---ROMA! SHE...SHE'S FAINTED!



QUICKLY, HE BROUGHT HER BACK---

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR REACTION! A BRAVE GIRL LIKE YOU---SO FRIGHTENED THAT YOU WERE READY TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!

MY PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN INSTINCTIVE REVULSION TO AN OCTOPUS! THE VERY SIGHT OF ONE FILLS US WITH AN INHERITED FEAR---WE CAN'T HELP OURSELVES!



BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE--- I'M NOT FORGETTING THAT! YOU'RE BRAVE--- WONDERFUL---NOT AS I'D BELIEVED---

AND YOU---YOU'RE NOT LIKE YOU MAKE OUT! UNDERNEATH IT ALL, YOU'RE A WOMAN--- A LOVELY WOMAN---



HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS, THIS SUDDENLY- DISCOVERED LOVE BETWEEN A MAN AND WOMAN OF DIFFERENT WORLDS! BUT THEIR RAPTURE WAS DESTINED FOR A RUDE INTERRUPTION! IT WAS TA-ZAKEN ---RULER OF THE UNDER-OCEAN EMPIRE---FRIGHTENING IN HIS AWFUL RAGE---

SO! YOU PRESUME TO LAY HANDS ON ROMA?

OH-OH! I'M IN FOR IT NOW!



YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED SOONER---BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT NOW!

OH, NO
---NO---





IT TOOK STRENGTH TO LEAVE HER...TO
HEAD OUT INTO THE BLACK OCEAN
ABOVE...

GOODBYE...
GOODBYE,
ROMA...



HE WAS HARDLY CLEAR OF THE LOCK
BEFORE...**PURSUIT!** LEADING THE
HASTILY-ORGANIZED AVENGERS WAS
TA-ZAKEN, CONSCIOUSNESS
RECOVERED...

THERE HE
GOES! **AFTER
HIM!**



IN A TRICE, THEY HAD SURROUNDED HIS
FRAGILE CRAFT...

TAKE NO
CHANCES!
**DESTROY
IT!**



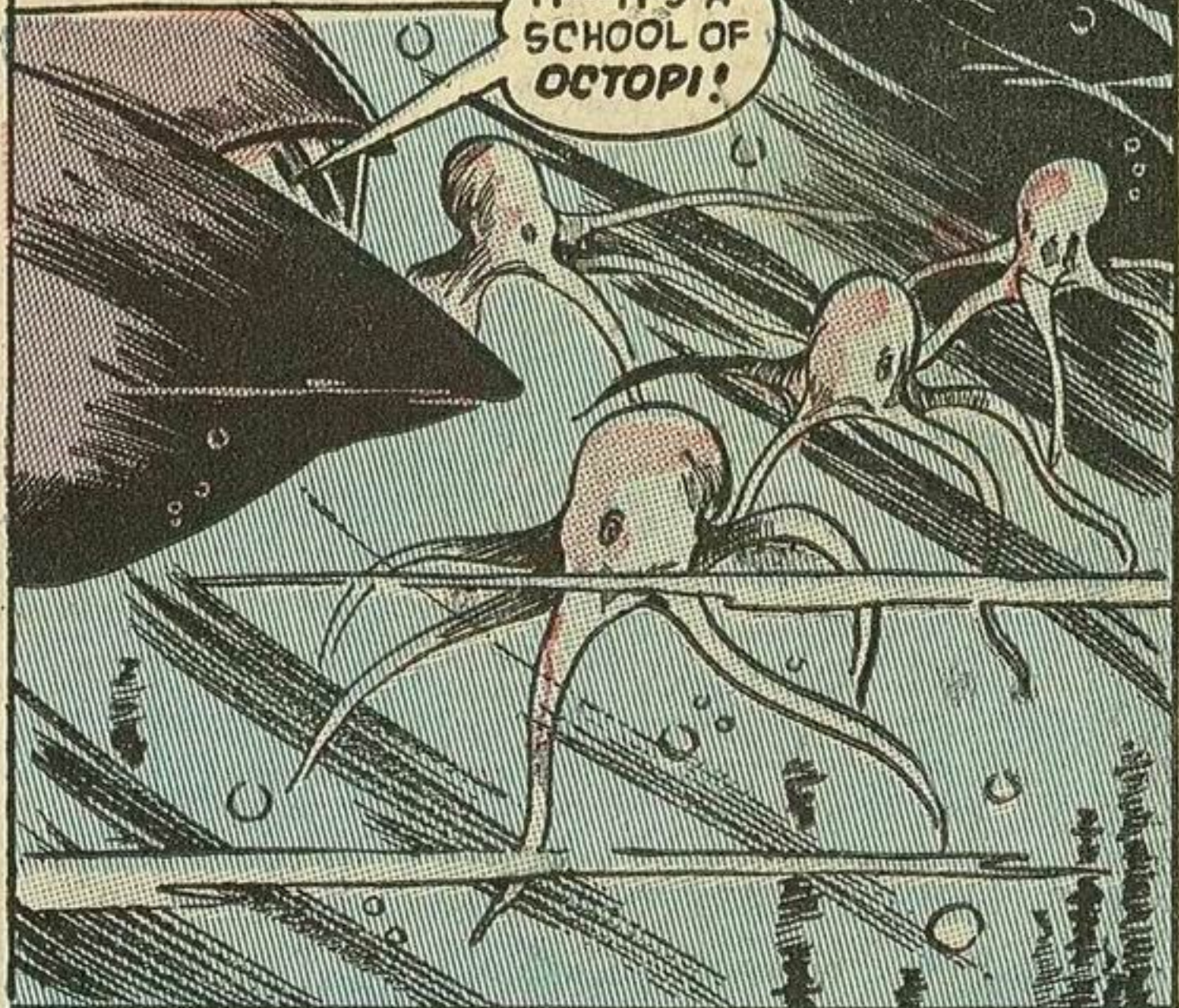
INSIDE, TOM WAS DESPERATE...

THEY'RE POUNDING AT THE SIDES
WITH THEIR PIKES! IN A MOMENT,
THEY'LL PENETRATE...AND THAT
SPELLS **CURTAINS!**



THERE WASN'T A CHANCE...BUT WAIT!
WHAT WAS THAT AHEAD?

IT...IT'S A
SCHOOL OF
OCTOPI!

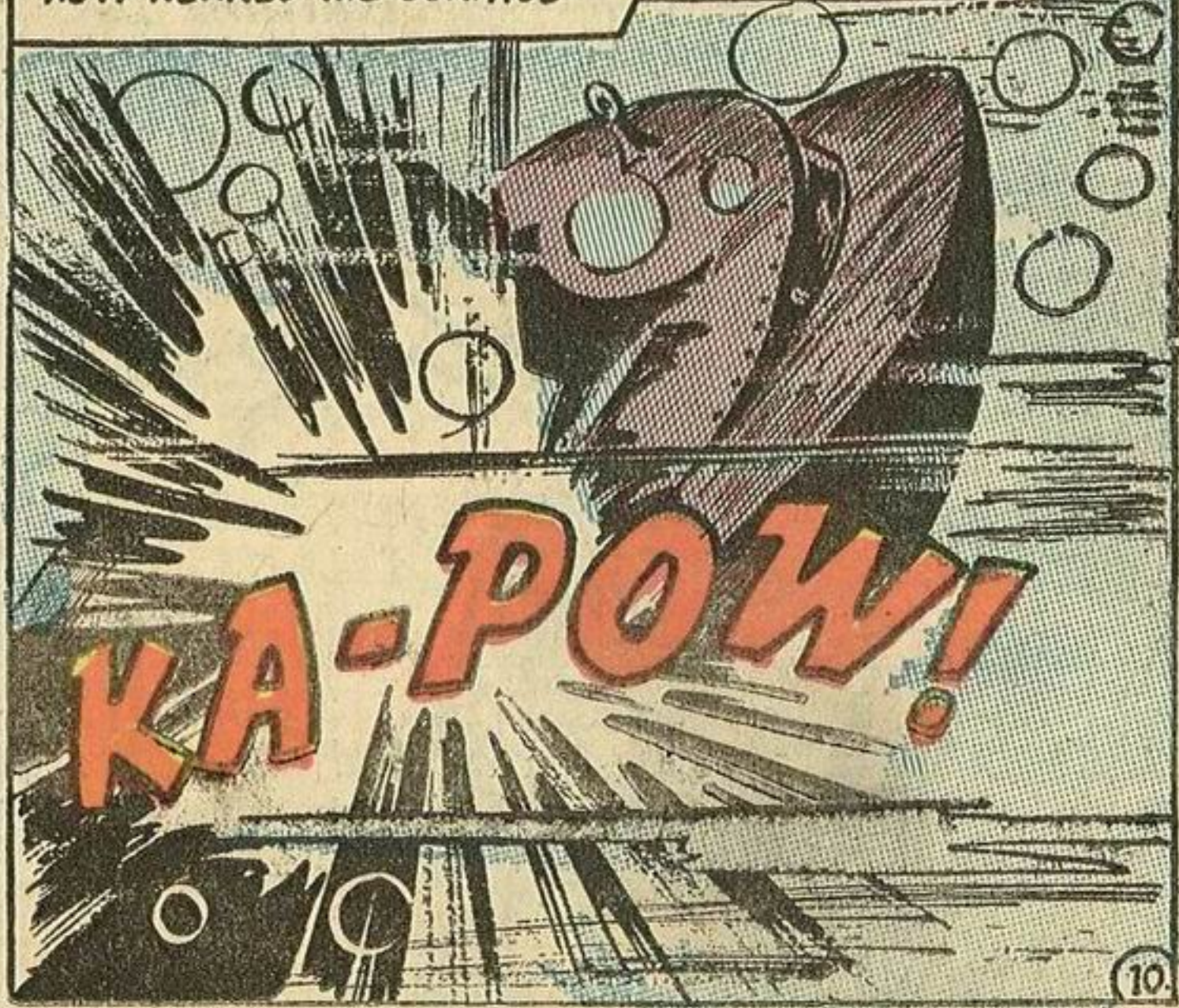


A DESPERATE TWIST OF THE WHEEL...AND HE WAS PLOWING
INTO THEIR MIDST! AND HIS PURSUERS, MOVED BY THEIR
ANCIENT FEAR, SCATTERED...PERMITTING HIS ESCAPE!

QUICK! LET HIM GO
...HEAD BACK TO THE
LOCK!



BUT THE FRAIL OLD CRAFT, ALREADY BUFFETED BY
HOSTILE BLOWS, WAS AT THE END OF ITS ROPE! EVEN
AS IT NEARED THE SURFACE...



DESPERATELY, TOM SWAM UPWARD...HIS LUNGS NEARING THE BURSTING POINT...

EVERYTHING...TURNING BLACK! CAN'T...MAKE IT...



BUT JUST IN TIME...

THANK... HEAVENS!



LUCKILY, IT WAS ON THE THROGGED CONVOY RUN...

WHAT THE...!
IT'S A MAN...SWIMMING
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN!



PEOPLE...UNDER
THE SEA...
MERMAID...

THE POOR CHAP'S
OUT OF HIS HEAD
...RAVING!



SOME YEARS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE WAR...ABOARD
A CRUISE SHIP...

WHAT GIVES WITH
THAT GUY, ANYWAY?
HE NEVER EVEN
LOOKS AT US!

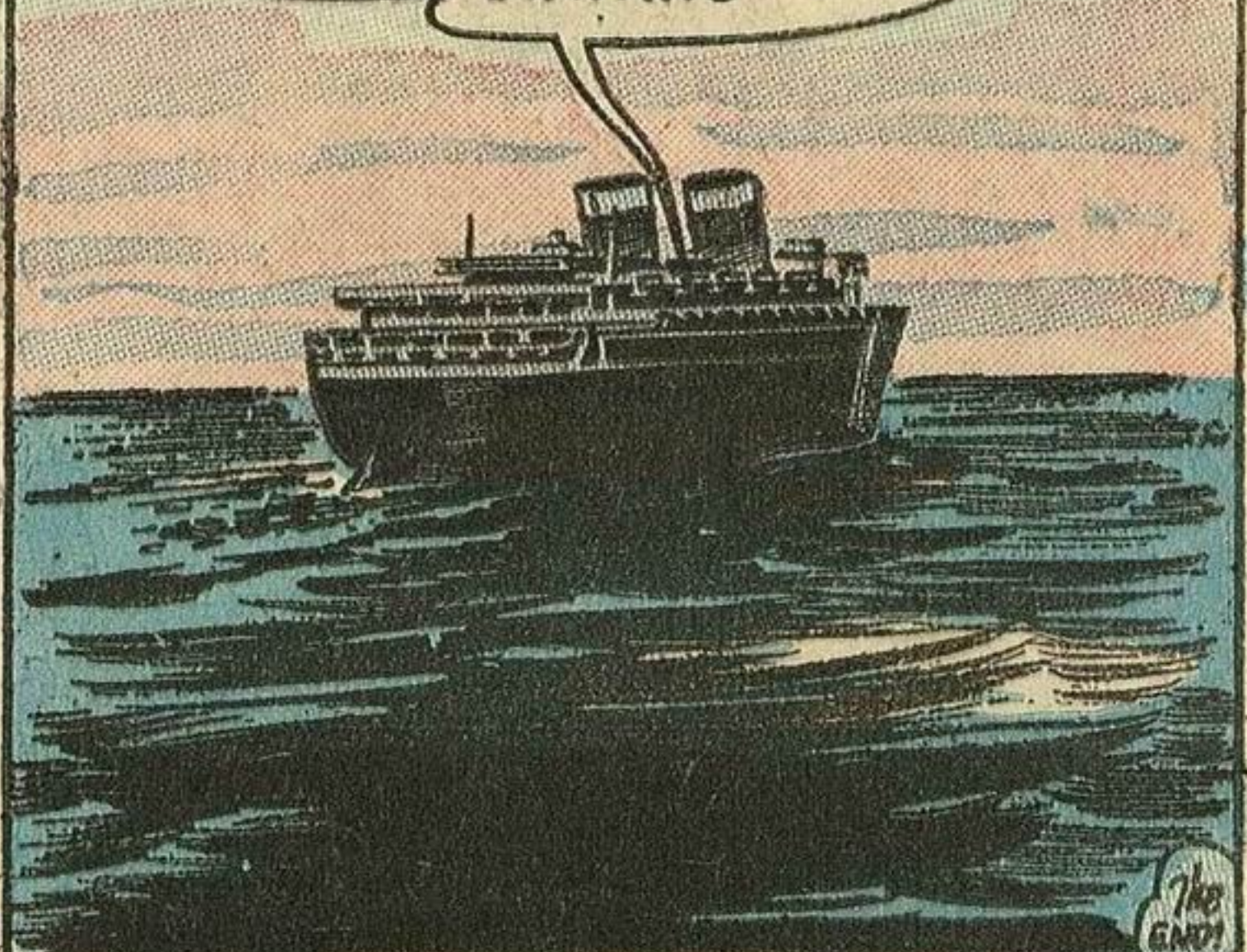
UH-HUH...EVER SINCE WE
GOT INTO THESE WATERS,
ALL HE DOES IS STICK TO
THE RAIL, LOOKING DOWN
...ALWAYS DOWN!
DARN IT, I'M GOING
TO FIND OUT WHY!



YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING
ABOUT YOU! IT CAN'T BE THAT THERE'S
SOMEONE DOWN THERE WAITING
FOR YOU, CAN IT? HA-HA...



PERHAPS...YOU'RE RIGHT! AS LONG
AS I LIVE, THERE'LL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE
...SOMEONE I'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN...DOWN
THERE UNDER THE SEA...WAITING...
WAITING...



MAKE \$20 A DAY

FULL OR PART TIME... IN A BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN

EARN BIG *Cash* PROFITS NOW!

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WHOLESALE TOOL CATALOG

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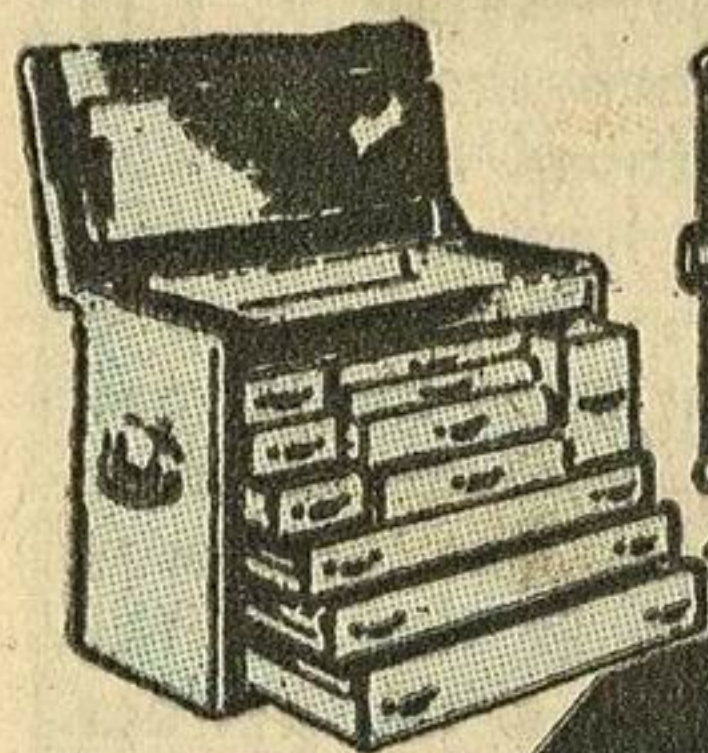
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MR. O'TOOLE

HERE'S A story that was told to us recently, and we're going to pass it along to you because we find it truly fascinating. As to whether or not you're to believe it, it's strictly up to you, and we won't for a moment vouch for its truth. It's said to have happened in Ireland in the year 1873, in the small village of Kilkenarra. There dwelt a crabbed, miserly old man named Conrad McTigue...and young Kevin Fitzhugh, who was unfortunate enough to have him for a guardian. The old man resented whatever he had to give the ten-year-old boy in the way of sustenance, and terrorized the child with his flaring bursts of temper. That's why Kevin spent as little time in the gloomy old house as possible. He had a favorite play spot...the dense woods just beyond the southern tip of Kilkenarra. People thought it strange that he didn't seek out the company of other boys, which would have been the natural thing to do. Instead, he seemed content with no company whatsoever. In his moments of greatest trouble, he'd seek the shelter of the woods, and return strangely contented.

Not only wasn't it natural, but the folk of Kilkenarra had another reason for opposing his visits to this spot. It wasn't for nothing, they warned him, that the place was known as the Enchanted Forest. Strange sounds had been known to emerge from the dense foliage, and at night, little, flickering lights had been seen. Despite the fact that searches had uncovered nothing, people had been known to have disappeared into the woods, never again to emerge. Grimly, the townfolk whispered of the Little People, of elves and leprechauns...and fearfully, they shunned the locality. Yet here was young Kevin Fitzhugh visiting the woods each day without so much as a by your leave, and without the slightest fear! People resented it. And they resented it even more when he began speaking

of Mr. O'Toole, a leprechaun with whom he claimed he had become friendly there... a leprechaun with six toes on each foot! What did the spalpeen take them for? Who ever heard of a leprechaun being friends with a human...or of such an improbable one, at that? Either the child was lying, or he was crazy! His guardian, old McTigue, seized eagerly upon this last possibility, since it gave him an undreamed-of opportunity to be rid of the boy. If he was mad, what better place for him than an institution? And mad he must be, to talk such drivell! So McTigue made the necessary arrangements to be rid of Kevin. In 1873, placing a patient in an institution wasn't too difficult a procedure, especially for a guardian. But the reputation of these early establishments was a frightening one, and so McTigue took steps to make sure that Kevin didn't escape before they came to call for him. The night before, he placed the lad in a high tower room and bolted the door heavily. There could be no escape, that was sure!

All the more strange, therefore, that when the door was opened the following morning, the room was found empty. The window stood open, but he just couldn't have escaped that way. Outside was a sheer wall without foot or hand holds, and he couldn't have leaped, because nowhere was there any trace of him. But there was a clue, if you could call it that. In the dust on the windowsill was the perfect imprint of a bare foot. To all intents and purposes, it seemed human...except for the fact that it was no more than two inches long. Oh, yes...there was something else strange about it. The toes... there were six of them. And to this day, merry shouts are said to come from the Enchanted Forest. The folk of the region have learned not to be frightened. "Sure," they say, "'tis naught but young Kevin Fitzhugh...playing with Mr. O'Toole!"

The PHARAOH'S fate!





SOON EVERY-
THING ABOUT
EGYPT ENGROSSED
ME! I READ
EVERY BOOK I
COULD FIND,
AND WHEN I WAS
READY FOR
COLLEGE...

YOU'VE GOT A FINE
MIND, EDWARD! WHAT
DO YOU INTEND TO
STUDY?

THAT'S EASY, SIR
...**EGYPTOLOGY
AND ARCHEOLOGY!**



WITHIN TEN
YEARS, I WAS
ONE OF THE BEST
YOUNG SCHOLARS
IN THE FIELD!
MUCH OF MY
WORK WAS DONE
IN THE MUSEUM
ARCHIVES, WHERE
AT LEAST ONCE
A DAY, I'D MAKE
SURE TO HAVE
A LOOK AT
SESOSTRAN...

FUNNY HOW THINGS
WORK OUT! IF DAD HADN'T
TAKEN ME HERE THAT
DAY, MY WHOLE LIFE
WOULD BE
DIFFERENT!



THINGS WENT ALONG PLACIDLY UNTIL THE WAR CAME ALONG
TO INTERRUPT MY WORK...

YOU'RE CERTAINLY
BURNING A LOT OF
PAPERS, SON!

JUST JUNK, MA!
MOSTLY THOSE
STORIES I USED
TO MAKE UP AS
A KID ABOUT
SESOSTRAN!



AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, I SAW ACTION ONLY IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC...

ANOTHER CRUMMY
ISLAND! MUST BE
A MILLION OF
'EM!

WHAT A BREAK
IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN TO GET SENT
TO **NORTH
AFRICA!** I MIGHT
HAVE SEEN
EGYPT!



MONTHS LATER, WHEN I RAN INTO THAT MORTAR SHELL, I HAD NO
IDEA JUST HOW **MUCH** IT WAS GOING TO CHANGE MY LIFE...

OH-HH!

KA-POW!



I SPENT THE
REST OF THE
WAR IN A
STATESIDE
HOSPITAL,
BORED
SILLY...

I CAN'T JUST LIE
HERE, NURSE! CAN'T
YOU GET SOMEBODY
FOR ME JUST TO
TALK TO?

WE'RE SHORT-
HANDED! BESIDES,
YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE **RESTING!**



FOR WEEKS ON
END I JUST LAY
THERE, THINKING
... **THINKING!**
PRETTY SOON I
WAS MAKING UP
STORIES ABOUT
EGYPT AGAIN
... MOSTLY ABOUT
SESOSTRAN...

MAYBE I OUGHT TO WRITE
A **BOOK** ABOUT MY OLD
PAL! IF IT'S HALF AS
INTERESTING TO OTHERS
AS TO ME... I'LL MAKE
A FORTUNE!

MY LEG WAS A LONG TIME IN HEALING, BUT AS SOON AS I COULD SIT UP, I STARTED WRITING...

WHAT'S ALL THE SCRIBBLING FOR, SOLDIER?

OH, JUST FOOLING AROUND WITH A STORY! IT'S ABOUT EGYPT... AS IT WAS 5,000 YEARS AGO!



OF COURSE, I KNEW THE SUBJECT WELL, BUT IT WAS SIMPLY INCREDIBLE HOW FAST I GOT THE WORK DONE! MY IMAGINARY ACCOUNT OF SESOSTRAN'S LIFE SEEMED TO WRITE ITSELF...

THIS MANUSCRIPT IS SUPERB! IT WAS SENT TO US BY A GI IN A HOSPITAL!

EDWARD MERCER? HE'S NO ORDINARY GI... HE'S A SCHOLAR IN THE FIELD!



I GOT OUT OF THE ARMY AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME MY BOOK HIT THE STANDS! ITS SUCCESS AMAZED ME...

IS THE BOOK AS GOOD AS EVERYONE SAYS?

BETTER! IT'S A NOVEL, YOU KNOW... BUT YOU'LL FIND OUT ALL ABOUT EGYPT!

On the SHADOW of the SPHYNX

On the SHADOW of the SPHYNX



MY COLLEAGUES AT THE MUSEUM WERE ASTOUNDED...

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A WRITER, ED! THE AMAZING THING IS HOW TRUE EVERYTHING SEEMS... EVEN! THOUGH NOTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT SESOSTRAN!

GUESS I WAS JUST INSPIRED! I COULDN'T WRITE ANOTHER BOOK IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!



BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THE BOOK'S SALES HAD MADE ME A FORTUNE! GOOD THING, TOO, BECAUSE I'D BECOME ENGAGED...

WELL, SALLY, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ENGAGED TO A HANDSOME, RICH AND WORLD-FAMOUS AUTHOR?

OH, I GUESS YOU'LL DO, DARLING!



OUR WEDDING DATE WAS ONLY A FEW WEEKS OFF WHEN...

GREAT SCOTT! THE TOMB OF SESOSTRAN HAS BEEN DISCOVERED... INTACT!



BY THE TIME I GOT TO THE MUSEUM, I WAS IN A FRENZY OF EXCITEMENT! I'D ALSO READ HOW TABLETS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, GIVING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE KING'S REIGN...

IS IT TRUE? IS THE REPORT CONFIRMED?

TRUE? MERCER, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ASTOUNDING COINCIDENCE?



BREATHLESSLY, I WAS TOLD HOW SOME OF THE TABLETS HAD BEEN TRANSLATED AT THE EXCAVATION SITE---

BUT THAT'S...
IMPOSSIBLE!

WHAT'S BEEN LEARNED ABOUT SESOSTRAN SO FAR MATCHES YOUR **IMAGINARY** ACCOUNT IN **EVERY** DETAIL!



BY NIGHTFALL A DELUGE OF TELEGRAMS AND CABLES HAD POURED IN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...ALL ASKING THE SAME QUESTION... **HOW HAD I KNOWN?**

I'M GOING **MAD, SALLY!** I **MADE UP** THAT STORY, I TELL YOU!

OF **COURSE** YOU DID! HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS BURIED UNDER DESERT SANDS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS?



KNOWING THAT EACH DAY WOULD BRING NEWS OF FURTHER TRANSLATIONS, I KNEW I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STAND UP UNDER THE STRAIN---

THERE'S JUST ONE THING TO DO! LET'S GET MARRIED AND FLY TO EGYPT...IT CAN BE OUR **NONEY-MOON!**

WHY, ED, THAT'S A PERFECTLY **GREAT** IDEA!



TWO DAYS LATER, WE WERE ON OUR WAY! BUT ALREADY **MORE** NEWS HAD CROSSED THE ATLANTIC---

YOU REALIZE MY FANTASIES ABOUT SESOSTRAN'S WARS HAVE TURNED OUT **ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE?** HOW CAN THAT BE?

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOME PERFECTLY **REASONABLE EXPLANATION** FOR THIS WHOLE BUSINESS!



IT TOOK US SEVERAL DAYS MORE TO REACH THE EXCAVATION SITE! MITCHELL, THE WORLD'S RANKING EGYPTOLOGIST, WAS IN CHARGE OF THE WORK---

GLAD YOU'VE COME, MY BOY! I'VE GOT A LOT OF **QUESTIONS** TO ASK YOU!

NO MORE THAN I HAVE!



IN HIS TENT---

I'M NOT DOUBTING YOUR **HONESTY**, MERCER, BUT I WANT THE **TRUTH!** DID YOU GET THE STORY OF SESOSTRAN FROM SOME SOURCE NONE OF US KNOWS ABOUT?

ON MY WORD OF HONOR, SIR... IT WAS PURELY **IMAGINARY!**



HE'D BEEN LOOKING AT ME STRANGELY FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS, WHEN SUDDENLY---

GOOD GRIEF, I **THOUGHT** THERE WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT YOUR FACE! DO YOU MIND ACCOMPANYING ME INTO THE DIGGINGS?

I'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER! BUT...WHAT ABOUT MY FACE?



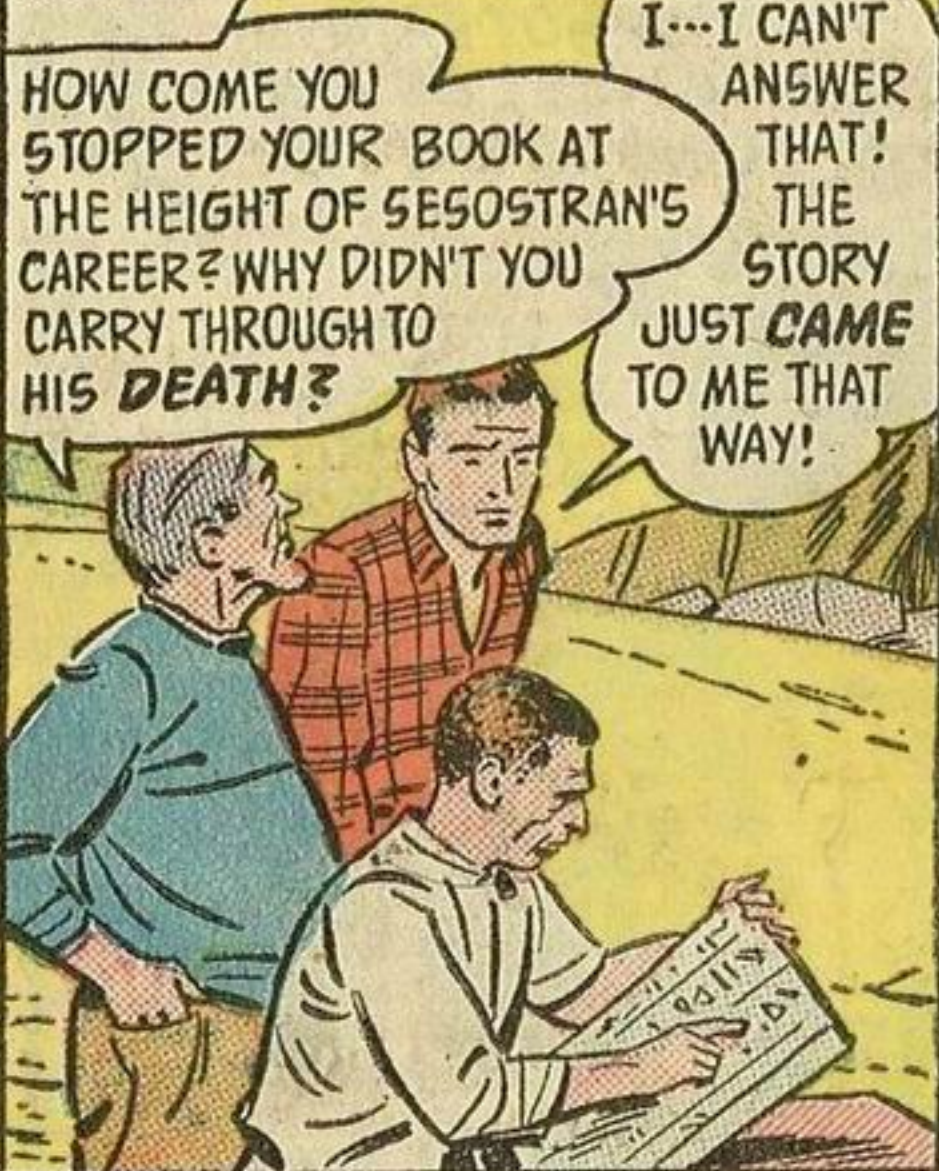
A SENSE OF AWE SWEEPED OVER ME AS I ENTERED THE CHAMBERS CLOSED SO MANY MILLENIUMS BEFORE! THROUGH THE GLOOM MITCHELL LED ME TO A STATUE...



I STARED INCREDULOUSLY, NOT BELIEVING THE TESTIMONY OF MY EYES...



IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, SCORES OF ARCHEOLOGISTS NOTED THE LIKENESS! I WAS NOT ONLY BAFFLED, BUT STRANGELY UNEASY...



THE WORK OF TRANSLATING THE TABLETS WAS GOING SLOWLY, BUT I'D COME TO DREAD THEIR FANTASTIC EVIDENCE...



WHAT'S SO EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THAT?

BECAUSE THAT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENED TO ME DURING THE WAR!



BY NIGHTFALL MY NERVES WERE SHATTERED! IT KEPT WHIRLING AROUND IN MY HEAD LIKE A CRAZY TUNE... WAS IT POSSIBLE?



EVERY DAY GREAT NEW DISCOVERIES WERE MADE IN THE TOMB, BUT I WAS TOO DISTRAUGHT TO DO ANY WORK...



I DETERMINED TO HELP OUT IN THE DECIPHERING OF THE HIEROGLYPHICS THAT VERY AFTERNOON! BUT I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE...



IT SAYS HERE THAT ON THE 17TH DAY AFTER HIS WEDDING, HE WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!

S-SALLY! HOW MANY DAYS SINCE WE'VE BEEN MARRIED?

WHAT BRIDE WOULDN'T HAVE THE ANSWER AT HER FINGERTIPS! SUPERSTITION OR NOT, I KNEW I WAS IN AWFUL DANGER...

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A CHILD! I GRANT IT'S ALL CURIOUS, BUT NOTHING MORE!

TOMORROW IS THE 17TH DAY AFTER MY WEDDING--AND SOMEHOW I KNOW THAT TOMORROW I'M GOING TO DIE!

WE'D BEEN LIVING IN TENTS...IN FULL VIEW OF THE OPEN SKY--AND I WAS DEFENSELESS!

IT'S IDIOTIC, BUT IF IT'LL CALM YOUR NERVES ANY, YOU MAY USE THE BUNGALOW THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT GAVE ME FOR MY USE! IT'S ABOUT 30 MILES FROM HERE... AND IT'S GOT LIGHTNING RODS!

ED, I'M ASHAMED OF YOU!

BUT IT WAS MY LIFE THAT WAS IN PERIL--NOT THEIRS! NEXT DAY...

THE RADIO REPORT SAYS THERE WON'T EVEN BE RAIN! YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU!

NOT EVEN RAIN, EH? LOOKS TO ME LIKE A STORM'S COMING UP! I'M GOING INSIDE!

WITHIN THE HOUR THE SKY WENT PITCH BLACK! SHEET LIGHTNING TORE THE HEAVENS TO SHREDS...

WE'RE NOT SAFE IN HERE! THE LIGHTNING'S GOING TO GET ME!

TAKE IT EASY, ED! WE'VE GOT LIGHTNING RODS--REMEMBER?

IT WAS AMAZING HOW THE STORM CONTINUED AS IF IT WOULD NOT RELENT UNTIL IT HAD CLAIMED ITS VICTIM! I WAS TERRIFIED AND WHEN THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY FAILED...

NO! I CAN'T STAND THE DARK! I'M SCARED, SALLY... SCARED!

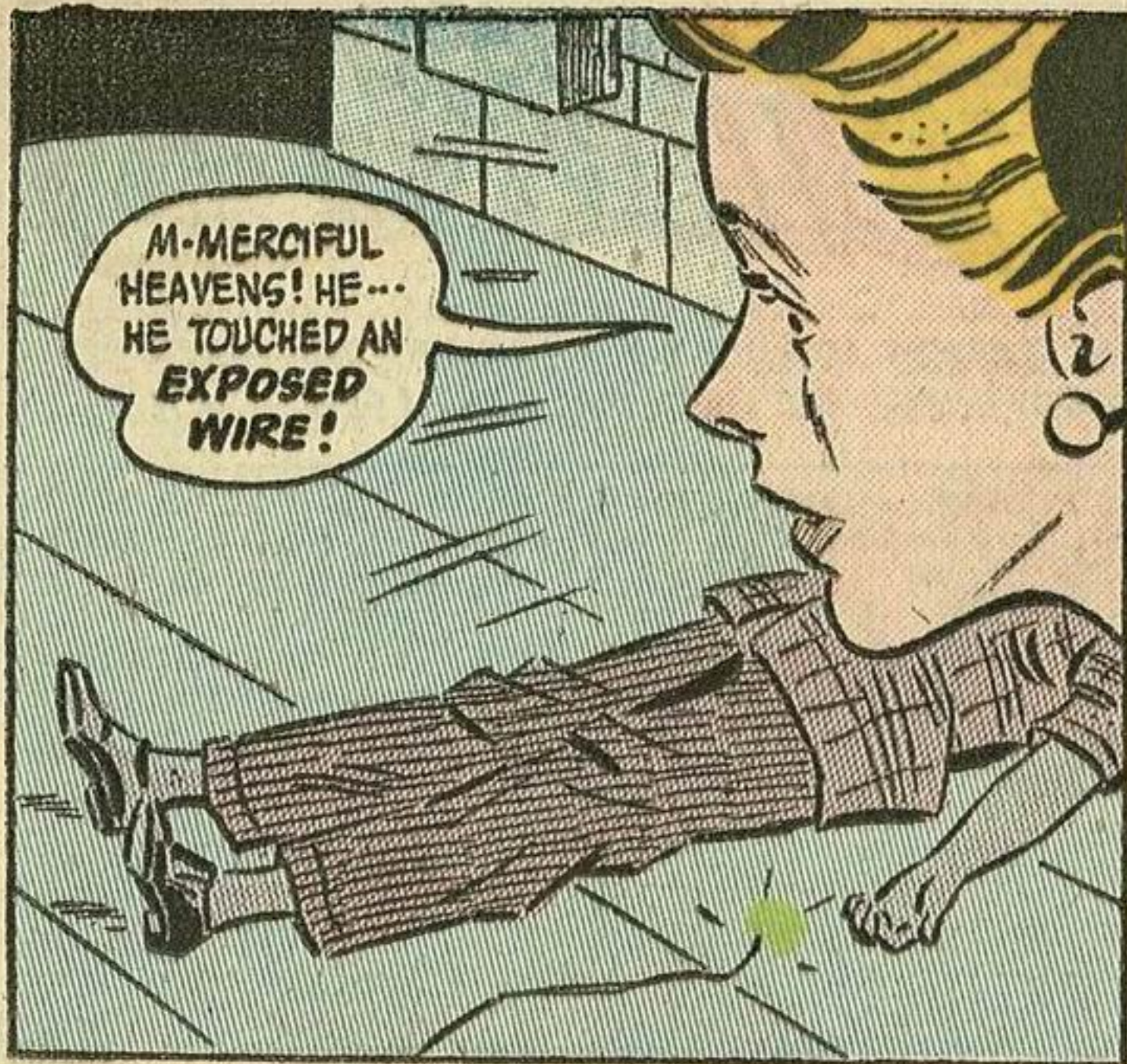
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, THERE'S A FUSE BOX IN THE CELLAR! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS CHANGE THE FUSE!

MORE THAN ANYTHING, THE DARKNESS UNMANNED ME! I GROPED INTO THE BLACK CELLAR...

AH, THERE IT IS! IN A MINUTE WE'LL HAVE LIGHT!

ONN-HHH!

ED! WHAT'S THE MATTER?



UNCANNY MYSTERIES

ORNITHOLOGISTS HAVE LONG BEEN PLACING IDENTIFICATION BANDS AROUND THE LEGS OF YOUNG BIRDS SO AS TO STUDY THEIR HABITS OF MIGRATION! MANY UNUSUAL DISCOVERIES HAVE BEEN MADE, AND A FEW STARTLING MYSTERIES...



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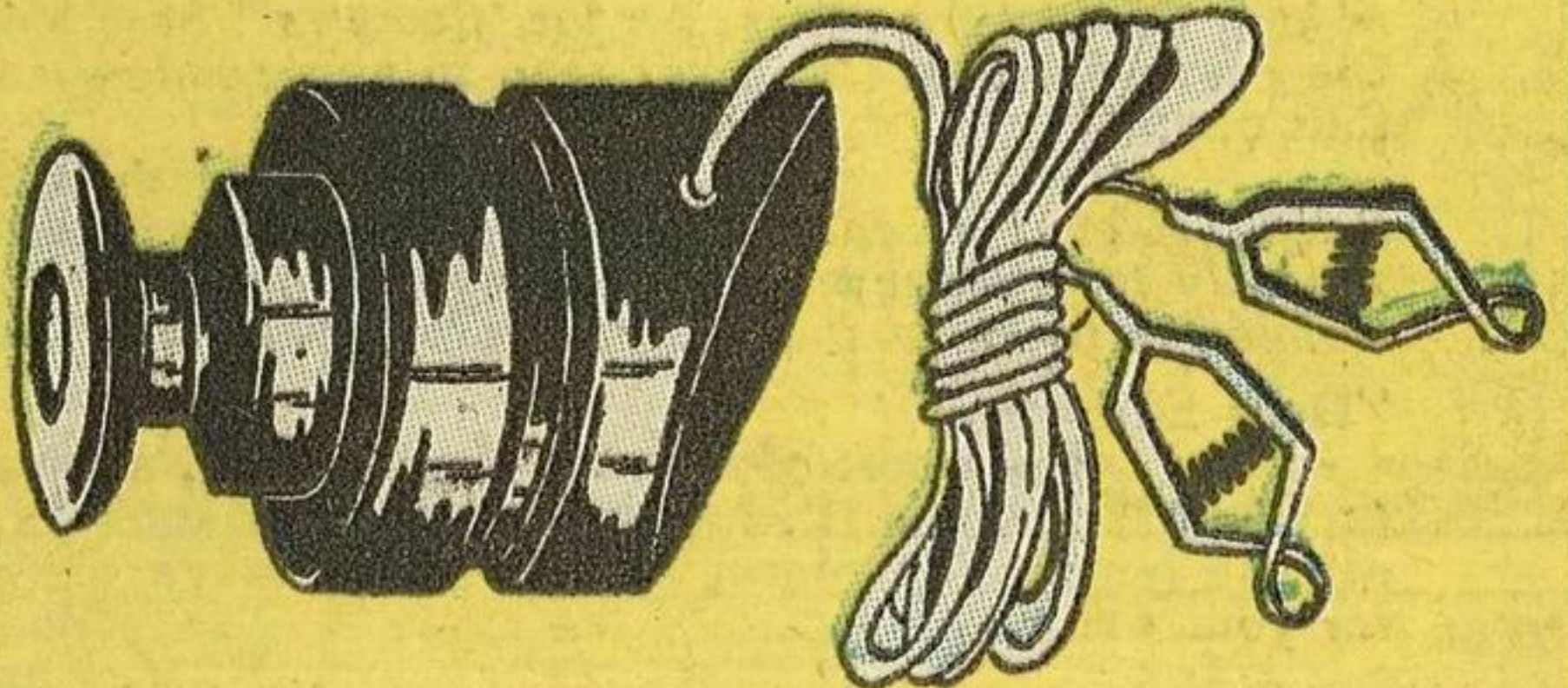
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From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

YOU'VE all heard the expression, "kicking up a storm". We editors of "Forbidden Worlds" know exactly what the saying implies, because that's just what we seem to have done in connection with the new policy we've been employing for this page. As you know, we've given it over in its entirety to you fans. It's your meeting-ground, your battlefield. Here, through the medium of your letters, you're exchanging viewpoints and getting to know each other. And, more and more, your opinions are molding the editorial policies of "Forbidden Worlds". If we haven't as yet heard from you, we'd like to...just address your correspondence to this magazine at 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N.Y. And now...clear the decks for action!

"Dear Editor:-

If there's one thing I can't figure, it's the people who write in to 'Forbidden Worlds'. Sometimes I think they don't know what they like. In a recent issue, a reader by the name of Swansen spoke about how much he liked your story, 'The Phantom Flyers'. Fine, I go along with that...but in the same breath, he cheers for 'The People From Down Under'. For my money, that one was a nothing. I'm tired of heroes who go traveling and discover strange lands. If your readers were polled, you'd find that most of them agree with me!

...Alvin Martucci, Detroit, Mich."

Okay, Alvin...we accept the challenge! Ever since the time of Marco Polo, folks have thrilled to tales of unknown, forbidden worlds! And when you put such tales into a framework of suspenseful adventure, we think the result will entertain and fascinate readers everywhere. Come on, readers! Don't be afraid to write in and tell us on whose side you are...Mr. Martucci's or ours!

"Dear Editor:-

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed your No. 43 issue. I thought that 'The Old Roman Coin' was one of the best stories I've read in 'Forbidden Worlds' for years. As for 'Home Is Where You Find It', that had just about the cleverest plot I've ever read in any comics magazine. Let's have more like that one!

...Edith Millberg, Baton Rouge, La."

Edith, if ever a reader knew how to warm an editor's heart, it's you! We labor mightily to produce novel, exciting and out-of-the-ordinary stories, and it's sure wonderful to know that they're going over!

"Dear Editor:-

What sort of mag are you running, anyway? I've read your yarn, 'Home Is Where You Find It', and what I want to know is, who's crazy...you or me? Of all the impossible plots, that one sure takes the cake! How about sanity tests for your writers?

...R. M. Farrell, Pasadena, Calif."

Sanity tests aren't really necessary, Mr. Farrell. We'd rather leave the decision to all our readers. We think that the test of a story isn't its probability or even its possibility. What we're after are absorbing and exciting yarns that are fascinatingly offbeat...that pack a thrilling challenge. Did we succeed in this case? We'll leave it to our fans!

"Dear Editor:-

I think 'Forbidden Worlds' is quite a magazine. Let me make it clear that I'm not the type that raves about every story...not a guy that throws brickbats all the time, either. I like to take things on their merit. Analyzing your July issue in that way, I can say that 'The Man Who Knew Tomorrow' was a really swell yarn with a fine plot idea behind it. 'Where The Redskins Never Fell', on the other hand, never really got anywhere. It didn't live up to its potentialities. 'Out Went The Candles' was average, and so was the issue. But over a period of time, 'Forbidden Worlds' has produced a high grade of story...the best in its class!

...Henry Brubaker, Newark, N.J."

Sounds like a fair estimate to us, Henry! We've made our mistakes as we've gone along, but we're always in there trying to make 'Forbidden Worlds' America's greatest comics magazine!

The EXPLORERS!

AN ATMOSPHERE OF CHARGED TENSION HAD EXISTED AT THE ROCKET TESTING SITE IN NEVADA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS! THE REASON? AN INCREDIBLE EVENT HAD TAKEN PLACE...PERHAPS SURPASSING THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSTELLAR FLIGHT!

IN A FEW SECONDS... WE'LL KNOW THE ANSWER!



CHIEF OF THE GROUP OF OUTSTANDING SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS WORKING ON THE PROJECT WAS EDMUND GIBSON, A YOUNG GENIUS OF GREAT DARING AND AMBITION...

GENTLEMEN, AT OUR PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS WE'LL BE EXPLORING SPACE WITHIN 10 YEARS!

IMPOSSIBLE, GIBSON!



IT'LL TAKE AT LEAST 50 YEARS BEFORE WE CAN BUILD ROCKETS BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD HUMANS...ASSUMING WE CAN EVER CONSTRUCT MOTORS OF SUFFICIENT POWER!

EXACTLY MY OPINION!





FURTHERMORE, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER LIFE CAN **TOLERATE** ENORMOUS SPEEDS!

I REMAIN AN **OPTIMIST**, GENTLEMEN... IN TIME WE'LL LICK ALL THESE PROBLEMS!



GIBSON WAS CONSUMED WITH A SINGLE DESIRE... TO BE THE FIRST MAN TO EXPLORE A PLANET IN OUTER SPACE...

COLUMBUS WOULD SEEM LIKE A **PIKER** COMPARED TO ME! A PLANET CALLED **GIBSON**... SOUNDS NICE! HMM, THAT BUSINESS ABOUT TERRIFIC SPEED AND LIFE...



IT WAS A MATTER WHICH COULD BE QUICKLY PUT TO A TEST! SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

YOU'RE GOING TO SEND A **MONKEY** ALOFT?

WHY NOT? THESE GAUGES WILL TELL US EXACTLY WHAT STRESSES IT'S SUBJECTED TO! IF IT CAN LIVE THROUGH A FLIGHT... SO CAN A **MAN**!



TOP SPEED SHOULD BE BETTER THAN 3,000! AND WHAT WITH THE RAPID START AND DE-ACCELERATION, I'M BETTING **AGAINST** SURVIVAL!

WE'LL SEE, FRANK!



AFTER THE EXHAUSTION OF ITS SHORT FUEL SUPPLY, HUGE PARACHUTES BROUGHT THE ROCKET SAFELY TO EARTH...

IT CAME DOWN LIGHT AS A FEATHER!

HURRY! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE MONKEY BACK TO THE LAB AS FAST AS POSSIBLE!



THE CREATURE WAS NOT ONLY FOUND TO BE ALIVE, BUT IN EXCELLENT CONDITION...

SPEED DIDN'T HARM HIM ONE BIT!

YES, BUT I'M WONDERING WHETHER **REPEATED** TRIPS MIGHT PROVE FATAL!



GOOD QUESTION! FROM NOW ON WE'LL SEND HIM UP WITH **EVERY** ROCKET! BY THE WAY, WE OUGHT TO GIVE HIM A NAME!

HOW ABOUT **JOJO**?

IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS JOJO MADE DOZENS OF TRIPS, WITHOUT SUFFERING THE SLIGHTEST HARM! HE BECAME A PET AROUND THE INSTALLATION---



REMARKABLE INTELLIGENCE! NOTICE HOW SWIFTLY JOJO PUTS THE BLOCKS IN THE PROPER HOLES?

EXTRAORDINARY! BUT HOW COME HE WASN'T ABLE TO DO THAT TWO WEEKS AGO?

WITH EACH PASSING DAY, THE ANIMAL'S ALERTNESS AND ABILITY TO IMITATE GREW MORE PRONOUNCED---



NOW HE'S TRYING TO EAT LIKE US! HA-HA!

DON'T LAUGH AT HIM, PERKINS! YOU KNOW HOW SENSITIVE HE IS!

EVERY WEEK SAW A NEW RECORD BROKEN; AS THE GROUP OF DEDICATED MEN PUSHED THE ROCKETS EVER HIGHER INTO THE STRATOSPHERE---



JOJO'S GETTING TO LOOK FORWARD TO HIS TRIPS! NOTICE HOW EXCITED HE ALWAYS GETS?

HE SEEMS TO KNOW WHEN A TRIP IS SCHEDULED... AS IF HE CAN ALMOST THINK!

SOMEHOW, EACH TRIP SEEMED TO MAKE JOJO SMARTER! ONE DAY---



I WONDER IF THOSE TERRIFIC SPEEDS HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE MONKEY'S BRAIN? IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT---

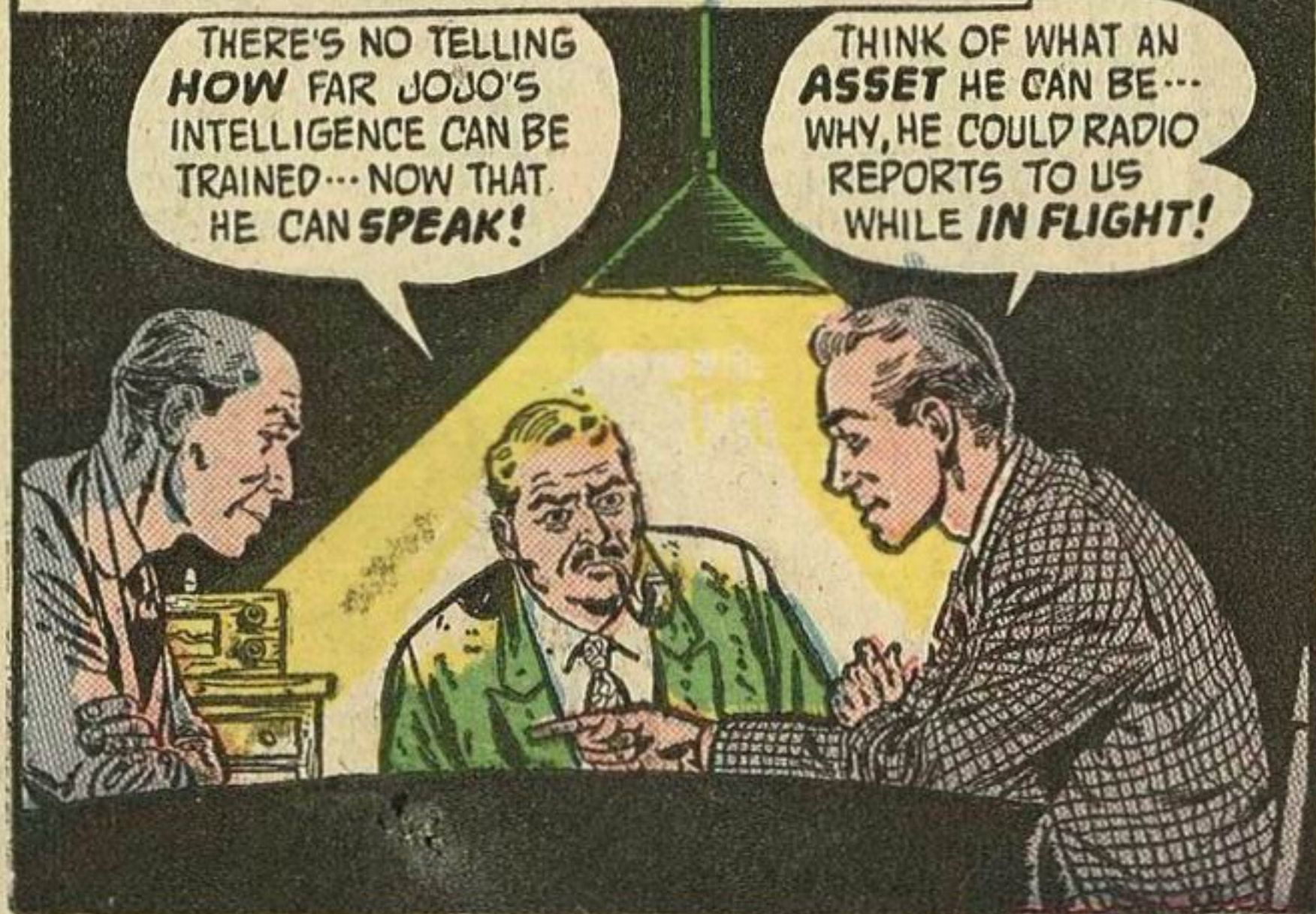
GIBSON! PERKINS! GIBSON! PERKINS!



GIBSON! PERKINS!

GREAT SCOTT! HE... HE'S PRONOUNCING OUR NAMES!

BY NIGHTFALL INTEREST IN ROCKETS HAD MOMENTARILY VANISHED! JUST ONE SUBJECT INTERESTED THE SCIENTISTS NOW---



THERE'S NO TELLING HOW FAR JOJO'S INTELLIGENCE CAN BE TRAINED... NOW THAT HE CAN SPEAK!

THINK OF WHAT AN ASSET HE CAN BE... WHY, HE COULD RADIO REPORTS TO US WHILE IN FLIGHT!

BUT THAT REQUIRES TRUE INTELLIGENCE! AND IT MAY BE THAT HE CAN ONLY IMITATE... LIKE A PARROT!

THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO FIND OUT... BY BENDING EVERY EFFORT TO EDUCATE HIM! AND, GENTLEMEN, THIS HAS GOT TO BE KEPT SECRET!



FROM SLOW BEGINNINGS JOJO SOON COMMENCED TO LEARN VERY FAST... CONFOUNDING EVEN THEIR MOST OPTIMISTIC HOPES...

4 AND 7 EQUALS 11!

AMAZING! HE'S ALREADY GOT THE INTELLIGENCE OF A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CHILD!



THE MONKEY'S RUDIMENTARY VOCABULARY GREW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS, WHILE ITS MEMORY GREW MORE ASTONISHING DAILY...

THERE! THAT FINISHES THE LIST OF ALL CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND THEIR ATOMIC WEIGHTS!

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, JOJO... YOU DIDN'T MAKE A SINGLE MISTAKE!



WITHIN A MONTH VAST STRIDES HAD BEEN MADE, AND JOJO'S POWERS OF LEARNING GAVE SIGNS OF ACCELERATING AT FANTASTIC SPEED...

I'M HAVING NO TROUBLE TEACHING HIM TO READ!

TODAY HE STARTED ASKING ME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROCKETS!

THAT'S NOTHING! AN HOUR AGO HE CRACKED A JOKE!



GIBSON WAS SOON TREATING THE APT PUPIL WITH GREAT RESPECT, FOR HE BELIEVED THAT WITH JOJO'S AID, THE EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE WOULD SOON BE POSSIBLE! SIX MONTHS LATER...

IN MY OPINION, THE GREAT ALTITUDES AND SPEEDS EFFECTED A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE STRUCTURE OF MY BRAIN!

A REASONABLE HYPOTHESIS, JOJO! WE'RE ALL IMMENSELY PLEASED BY YOUR PROGRESS!



NOW, ON EACH TRIP INTO THE STRATOSPHERE, JOJO WAS PROVIDED WITH RADIO EQUIPMENT...

SPEED AT MACH NUMBER 3.2! HEAVY LATERAL STRESS ON FINTAIL MECHANISM! SUGGEST LIGHTER METAL IN TURBO EXHAUST!

GOOD SUGGESTION, JOJO! GET SET FOR RETURN TRIP!



WHENEVER NOT ACTUALLY WORKING, JOJO WAS USUALLY TO BE FOUND IN THE INSTALLATION'S LIBRARY...

AN, THERE YOU ARE! READING AGAIN, EH? WHAT COULD INTEREST YOU ABOUT NUCLEAR FUELS?

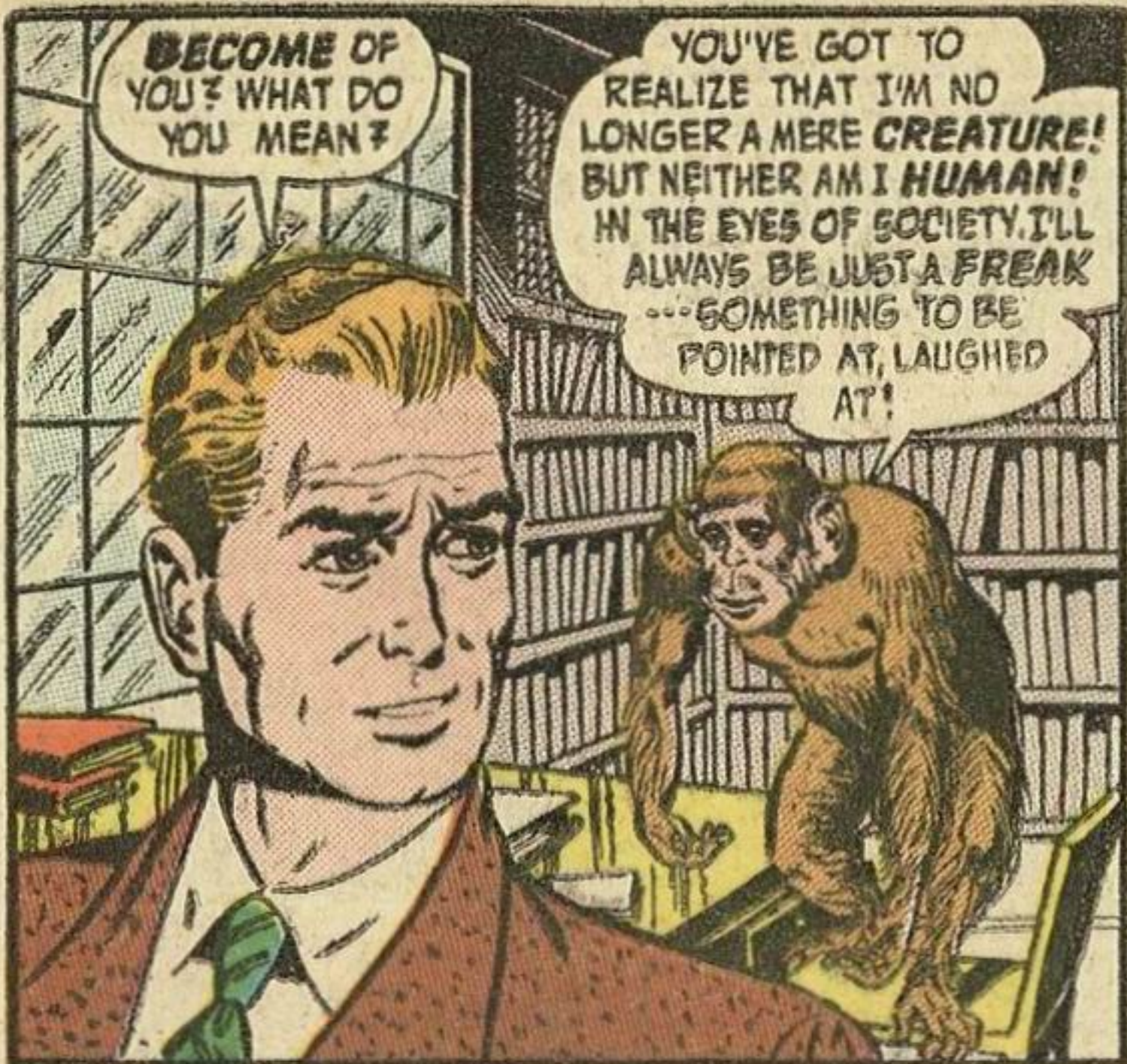
I FIND THE SUBJECT FASCINATING, GIBSON!



SOMETIMES YOUR INTELLIGENCE FRIGHTENS ME! I BELIEVE AN I.Q. TEST WOULD PUT YOU IN THE GENIUS CLASS!

YOU'RE ONLY AMAZED BECAUSE YOU STILL THINK OF ME AS A MONKEY... MERELY AN AMUSING INFERIOR CREATURE! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF ME, GIBSON?





BECOME OF YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'VE GOT TO REALIZE THAT I'M NO LONGER A MERE CREATURE! BUT NEITHER AM I HUMAN! IN THE EYES OF SOCIETY, I'LL ALWAYS BE JUST A FREAK --- SOMETHING TO BE POINTED AT, LAUGHED AT!



HA-HA! DID YOU EVER HEAR ANYTHING SO FUNNY? NEXT THING HE'LL WANT TO VOTE!

S-STOP! YOU'RE K-KILLING ME!

JOJO'S MANNER WAS QUIETER AND MORE SERIOUS AFTER THAT, BUT HIS ROCKET WORK CONTINUED TO IMPROVE STEADILY...

I'VE BEEN THINKING, GIBSON---JUST IN CASE I HAD AN ACCIDENT, WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA TO HAVE A SECOND MONKEY TRAINED? BETTER FIND OUT NOW WHETHER ITS INTELLIGENCE WILL IMPROVE TOO!



IT'S FUNNY I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT! WE'LL GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY! WE'LL USE A FEMALE TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY DIFFERENCE IN LEARNING PATTERNS!

AS SOON AS A SECOND MONKEY WAS PROCURED---

WE'LL START WORKING WITH HER IMMEDIATELY! LET'S SEE---WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE HER A NAME---



WHAT SAY WE CALL HER ANNIE --- SHORT FOR ANTHROPOID? HA-HA!

ANNIE SURVIVED THE SEVERE TESTS TO WHICH SHE WAS SUBJECTED, AND AFTER A FEW TRIPS, SHE TOO BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF IMPROVING INTELLIGENCE---

LET'S GO, ANNIE! HOW MUCH ARE 1 AND 1?



TWO! TWO!



SHE'S DOING FINE! IN A WAY, ALL THIS SCARES ME, GIBSON! THESE THINGS MAY WIND UP SMARTER THAN WE ARE!

NONSENSE! THEY'RE JUST GOOD AT LEARNING BY ROTE!

FROM THEN ON, GIBSON'S FANTASIES OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT GREW MORE GRANDIOSE---



WE'LL BE READY TO SEND JOJO UP IN A ROCKET THAT CAN BUST OUT OF THE STRATOSPHERE SOON! HE'LL BE TAKING ALL THE RISKS---PAVING THE WAY FOR ME! I'LL BE THE FIRST MAN TO SET FOOT ON ANOTHER PLANET!

IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, ALL WORK WAS CONCENTRATED ON A SINGLE GREAT EFFORT...

THIS WILL BE THE **PILOT** MODEL FOR SHIPS LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD **MEN!** JOJO DESERVES A **MEDAL** FOR THE RISKS WE'RE MAKING HIM TAKE!

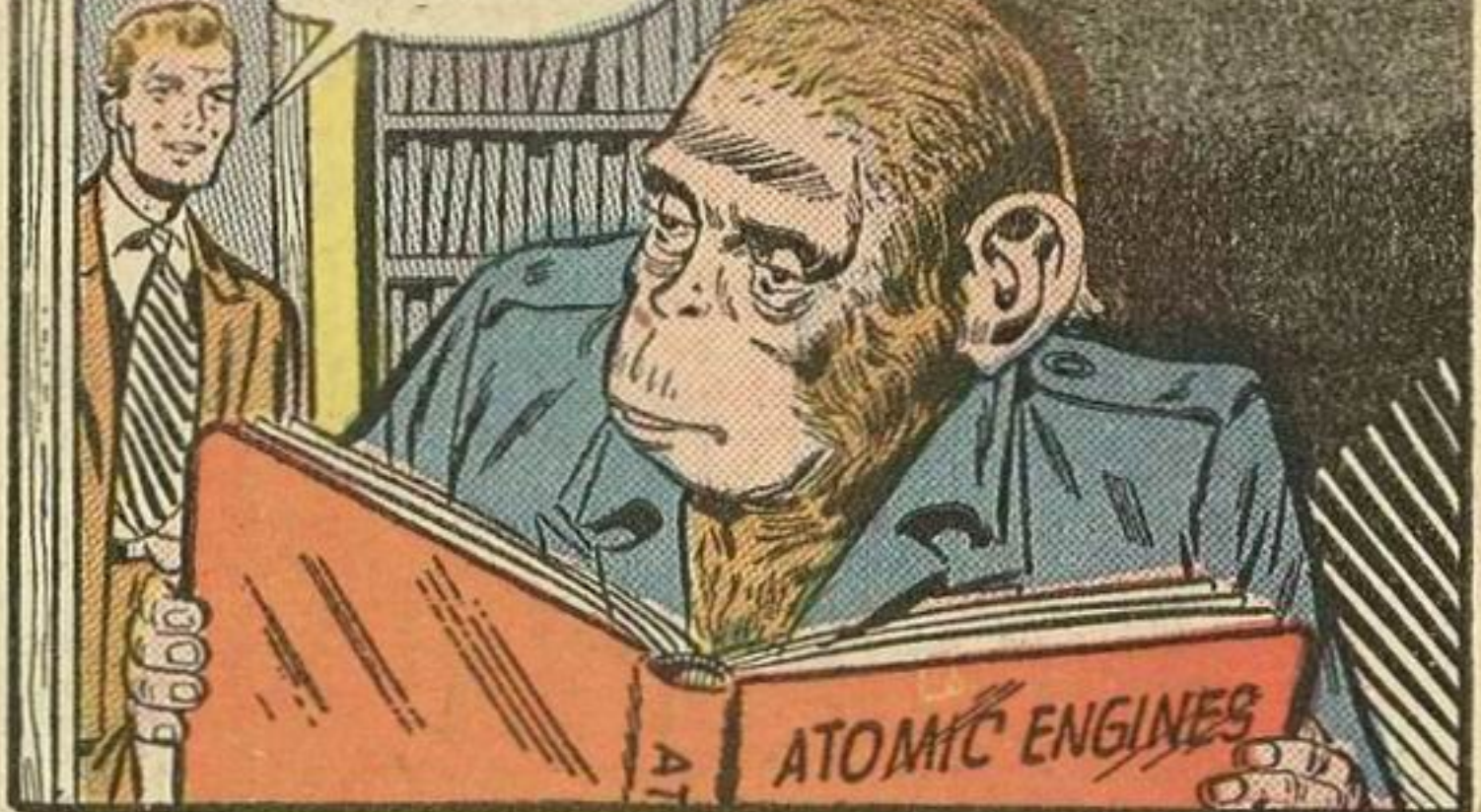
WE'LL STILL HAVE THE **POWER** PROBLEM TO SOLVE, PERKINS! THESE MOTORS AREN'T **CAPABLE** OF MORE THAN A **HALF-HOUR'S FLIGHT!**



THE CRAFT HAD BEEN DESIGNED FOR JOJO'S USE, AND IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE TEST FLIGHT, GIBSON NOTICED HIM BECOMING INCREASINGLY ABSORBED...

JOJO, I WISH YOU WOULDN'T HURT YOUR EYES BY ALL THIS READING! ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ATOMIC ENGINES, JUST ASK ME!

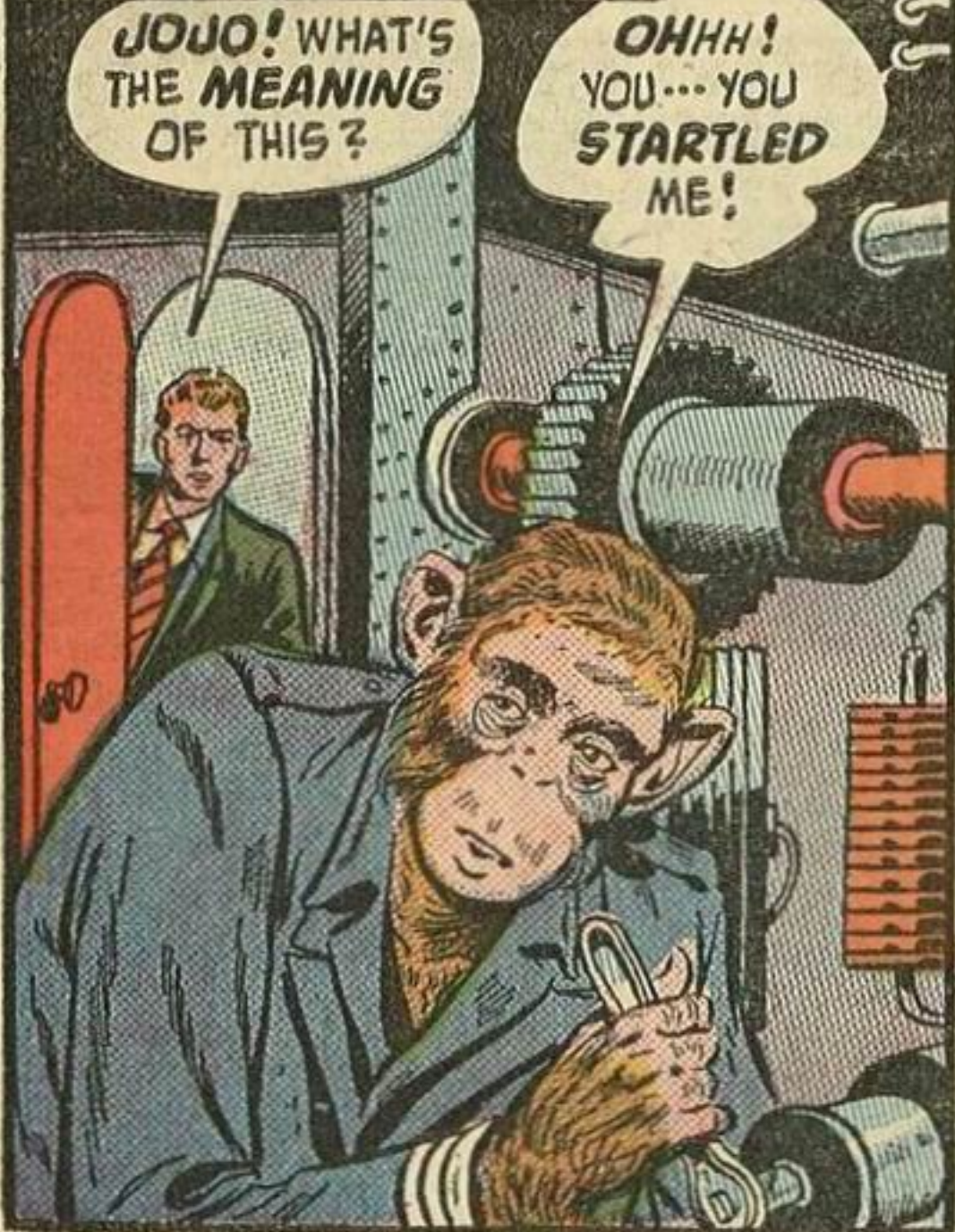
I WAS JUST... ER... READING FOR **AMUSEMENT!**



LATE ONE NIGHT, GIBSON FOUND HIM TAMPERING WITH THE ROCKET'S MOTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION SHED...

JOJO! WHAT'S THE **MEANING** OF THIS?

OH! YOU... YOU **STARTLED** ME!



I...I WAS JUST **CURIOUS**...WANTED TO SEE WHAT THE ENGINES WERE LIKE!

KEEP **OUT** OF HERE! YOU MIGHT GUM THINGS UP!



AT LAST, THE DAY OF THE GREAT TEST FLIGHT CAME...

NOW LISTEN, JOJO... YOU AND ANNIE ARE TO RADIO BACK **EVERYTHING!** ONCE YOU'RE IN SPACE THERE'LL BE **NO GRAVITY**...YOU'LL FEEL **WEIGHTLESS**...

GIVE US EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION! **UNDERSTAND?**

PERFECTLY!



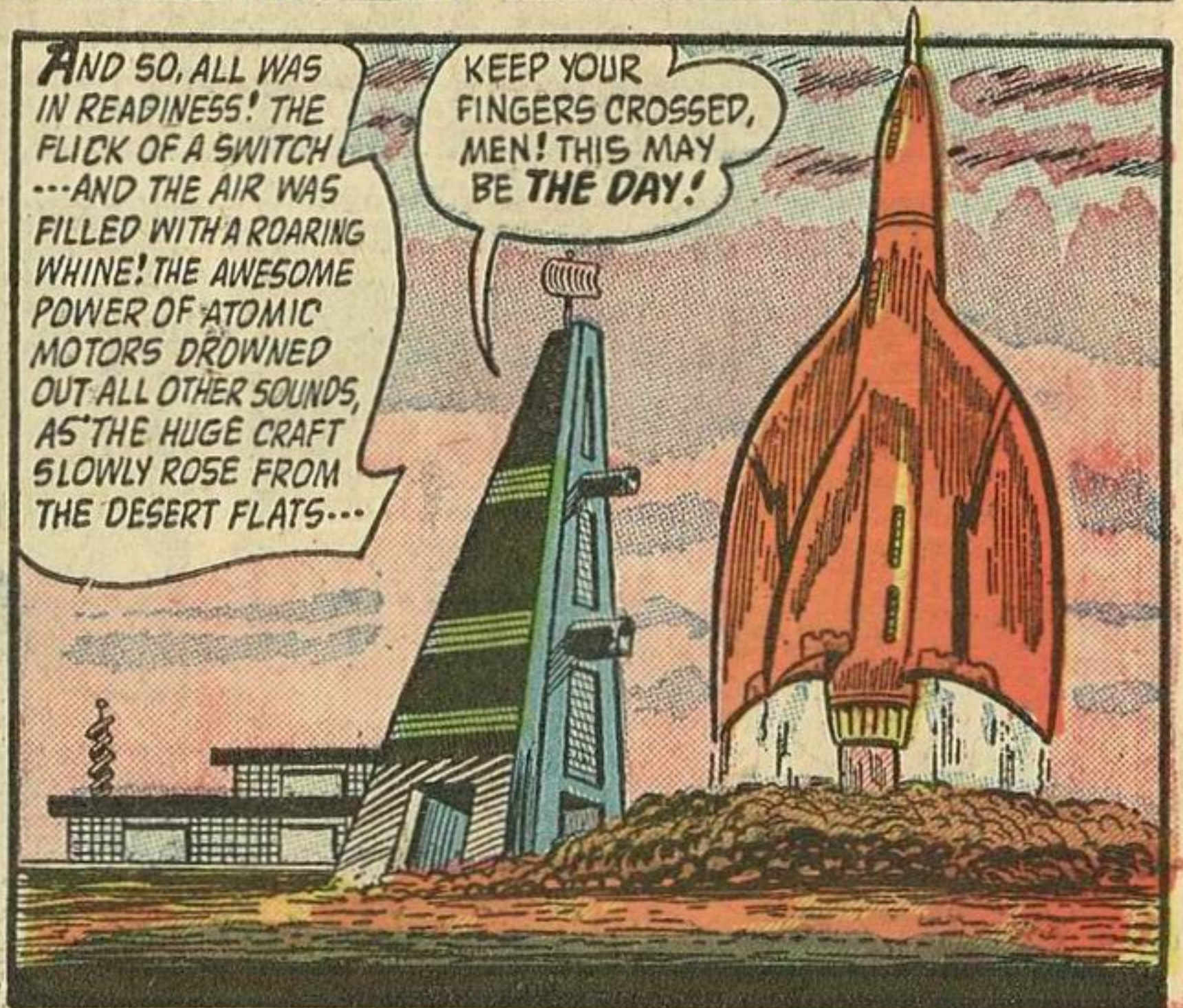
IF THE TEST SUCCEEDS, YOU'LL BE **FAMOUS!** WE'LL GIVE THE NEWS TO THE PRESS...YOUR PICTURE'LL BE IN EVERY PAPER! SCIENTIFIC BODIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL WANT TO EXAMINE YOU...

I HAVE NO WISH TO BE A SCIENTIFIC **CURIOSITY**...BUT WE'D BEST DISCUSS THAT **LATER!**



AND SO, ALL WAS IN READINESS! THE FLICK OF A SWITCH...AND THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH A ROARING WHINE! THE AWESOME POWER OF ATOMIC MOTORS DROWNED OUT ALL OTHER SOUNDS, AS THE HUGE CRAFT SLOWLY ROSE FROM THE DESERT FLATS...

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, MEN! THIS MAY BE **THE DAY!**



SUDDENLY, WITH FANTASTIC ABRUPTNESS, THE ROCKET SHOT UPWARDS! WITHIN SECONDS IT WAS A MERE SPECK ...AND THEN OUT OF SIGHT! UP, UP, UP! AND FINALLY, THE STRATOSPHERE HAD BEEN PASSED!

GRAVITY AT NEAR ZERO! WEIGHT GAUGES AT DEAD CENTER! WE'RE IN SPACE!

HOW DO YOU FEEL, JOJO? ANY BLACKOUT EFFECTS?



IN THE RADIO SHACK ON THE DESERT FAR BELOW, THE AIR CRACKLED WITH INTENSE EXCITEMENT...

NO BLACKOUT PHENOMENA! WE'RE BOTH THINKING CLEARLY!

WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE CONQUERED SPACE!



OKAY, JOJO, TURN BACK... WE'LL BEAM A RADAR SIGNAL TO GUIDE YOU!

SORRY, GIBSON... WE'RE NOT COMING BACK!



I'VE BEEN PLANNING THIS A LONG TIME, GIBSON! THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH FOR A CREATURE LIKE ME, BUT MAYBE I CAN FIND A SPOT IN OUTER SPACE WHERE I CAN BE HAPPY... ME AND ANNIE!

YOU... YOU'RE MAD! TURN BACK AT ONCE! YOUR FUEL'S ALMOST GONE!



I'M NOT MAD, GIBSON... JUST A LOT SMARTER THAN I EVER LET ANY OF YOU SUSPECT ...I FEARED YOU MIGHT NOT TRUST ME! SOLVING THE FUEL PROBLEM WAS DIFFICULT... BUT NOT BEYOND MY POWERS!

COME BACK! DO YOU HEAR ME? THIS VERY INSTANT!



I'M THROUGH TAKING ORDERS... AND BEING LAUGHED AT! SOMEWHERE THERE'S A PLANET WHERE ANNIE AND I CAN SETTLE... AND MAKE A DECENT LIFE FOR OURSELVES! I'M SIGNING OFF, GIBSON!

NO! NO!



HE... HE'S SHUT OFF COMMUNICATION! HE'S NOT COMING BACK!

CLICK!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THE MONKEYS... NOW!



WELL, I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER WITH! FULL SPEED NORTH NORTHWEST TOWARD THE TWELFTH STELLAR QUADRANT... MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING THERE!

GOSH, JOJO, WHO'D EVER HAVE THOUGHT WE'D BE THE FIRST TO PIONEER AN ASTRAL BODY?



Hi there, Pal! Win Some of these 100 Silver Anniversary Prizes!
 I just won **\$100.** and this 15" tall Silver Trophy
 I just won this **\$1,000,000** Body and a Gold Medal

You Can Win All These
 just as I did
 in **10**
MINUTES
 OF FUN
 A DAY!

I GAINED
60 LBS. OF HANDSOME
MUSCLES! HARD-HITTING

John Sill
 NOW

Which of these
2 ME'S is YOU?

that 125 lb.—6 ft.

CHICKEN WEAKLING BELOW
CHESTED WAS ME
 A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

THIS MAY BE
 YOUR LAST
 CHANCE
 TO GET FOR
ALL 5 10¢
 PICTURE
 PACKED COURSES
 MILLIONS HAVE
 BEEN SOLD FOR
\$1 AND MORE

Yes! You still
 can win \$100
 and other 25th
 Anniversary Prizes,
 if you MAIL coupon
 below NOW. Your suc-
 cess can soon be like
 mine. A few weeks ago
 I was a skinny weakling
 like you. I had no guts to
 fight for my rights. TODAY
 everyone admires my champ
 movie-star build. My mighty
 ARMS. My heroic CHEST. My
 wide manly SHOULDERS. My
 POPULARITY with boys. The
 way GIRLS go for me—once
 so girl-shy. My new prow-
 ess in SPORTS. My new
 quickness in STUDIES. My
 double-energy at work.

There's that
 skinny scarecrow
JOHN. Let's
 pass him by!



John Sill
 before



NO! friend you
 don't have to be
SKINNY any more.
 Just mail NOW the FREE
 coupon below as I did.
 Soon YOU can add
 7 inches to your CHEST
 3½ inches to EACH
 ARM and the rest in
 proportion as I did.



FREE

Come On, PAL
NOW YOU give me
10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY
 IN YOUR OWN HOME
 and I'll give YOU

A NEW HE-MAN BODY for
 your OLD SKELETON FRAME
 says *George F. Jowett* World's Greatest
 Builder of HE-MEN

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you
 are; if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's
 or 30's or over; if you're short or tall, or
 what work you do. All I want is JUST 10
 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE
 YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD
 I turned myself from a wreck to
 a Champion of Champions.



JOHN SILL
 was a 125 lb.
 6 ft. WEAKLING
 LOOK at him NOW.
 A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN
 from Head to Toe
 as YOU
 can be
 soon!

BOTH FREE FOR QUICK ACTION!

1. Photo Book of STRONG MEN
2. MUSCLE METER

Dept. A-M-69

Tell Me How To
 WIN \$100, etc.

"Jowett Courses
 greatest in
 World for
 Building
 All-Around
 HE-MEN"
 —R. F. Kelley
 Physical
 Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
 220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of
 Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building
 Courses. 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a
 Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build
 a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs—Now all in One
 Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10¢
 FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).

YES! You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR
 ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS
 broadened. From head to heels, you'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-
 American HE-MAN WINNER—or my Training won't cost you one soli-
 tary cent.

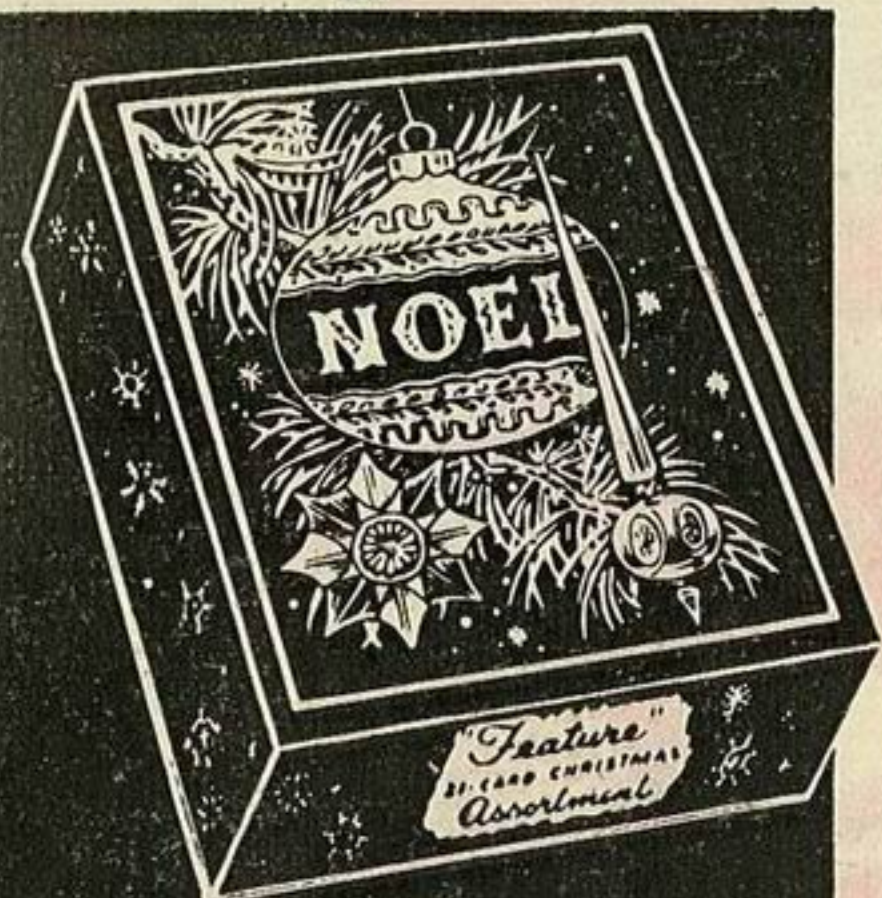
Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES
Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!

After a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body I
 have devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER"
 the only method that builds you 5-ways fast. You save YEARS, DOL-
 LARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ John Sill did. Like
 MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO Mail coupon NOW!

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

NAME _____ AGE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!



"FEATURE" 21-CARD ASSORTMENT
Our leading seller . . . your leading money-maker.



GAY, CHEERY CHRISTMAS ASSORTMENT
Every card a clever surprise!



LOVABLE, WINSOME ANGELS
Each a charming expression of Christmas.



NEWEST IDEA IN EVERYDAY CARDS
Exclusive sensational seller.

**Thrilling, New, First-Time
Ideas in Christmas Cards
Will Bring You**

**MORE
EXTRA
MONEY**
Quicker Easier
THAN EVER BEFORE!

**For Example: YOU CAN MAKE
\$50⁰⁰ for selling only
50 boxes of our
900 line. Samples Free!**

To Prove This we'll send you our famous 21-Card "Feature" Christmas Assortment on approval and FREE samples of our exquisite, big-variety Special Value Personal Christmas Card lines PLUS full-color Catalog of our complete, money-making line. Just mail the coupon below. You'll be glad you did.

**Here's \$75.00 to \$500.00
for Your Spare Time**

You don't need any experience. This is the fastest, easiest way to make all the extra money you need, and more, in your spare time! Simply show these spectacular, new, first-time ideas in Christmas Cards at low prices. All your friends and neighbors will fall in love with them on sight. Last year thousands of Wallace Brown folks made \$75.00, \$200.00, \$500.00 and even more this easy, simple way. It's fun! Join them by mailing this coupon NOW.

ORGANIZATIONS: Churches, clubs, veterans' auxiliaries, etc., can now add hundreds of dollars to their treasuries with these fast sellers. Give organization name on coupon for Fund-Raising Plan.

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**SCRIPTURE-TEXT
CHRISTMAS ASSORTMENT**
21 inspiring Religious Cards.



TALL, SLIM and SMART
A "new look" in Christmas Cards.



CHRISTMAS SCENES ENSEMBLE
Glittered with sparkling iridescent pearly "sno' sheen".

76 MONEY-MAKERS

Best Wallace Brown Line in 36 years. Free Catalog shows many more fast sellers: Gift Wrappings, Everyday Greeting Cards, Decorated Stationery, Novelty Gifts, Floral Napkins, Children's Books. All bring you more money.

Paste This Coupon on Postcard or Mail in Envelope

Wallace Brown, Inc., Dept. S-5
11 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

Please rush 21-Card "Feature" Christmas Assortment on approval—plus FREE samples of Personal Christmas Cards and FREE Catalog and money-making plans.

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zone _____ State _____

If writing for an organization, give its name _____



PORTABLE
PHONOGRAPH

ELECTRIC TRAIN

ALL KINDS OF
HOUSEWARES

POPUP
TOASTER

ELECTRONIC
TWO-WAY
WALKIE-TALKIE

DAVY CROCKETT
TOYS & EQUIPMENT

BOYS-GIRLS-MEN-WOMEN-

Boy and Girl Scouts - Camp Fire Girls - News Boys!

PRIZES GIVEN

**MAKE
MONEY
TOO!**

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page... or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, air-rifles, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, scout equipment, model airplanes, movie machines, record players, and many others... all WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c... sell on sight. You can make big cash commissions or get many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Other prizes for selling 2 sets or more. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you FREE.

SEND NO MONEY-We Trust You!



RADIO

INDIAN
MOCCASIN
SET



GABBY HAYES
FISHING KIT



GIRLS
OVERNIGHT
CASE



SPORTS
EQUIPMENT



TABLE TENNIS SET

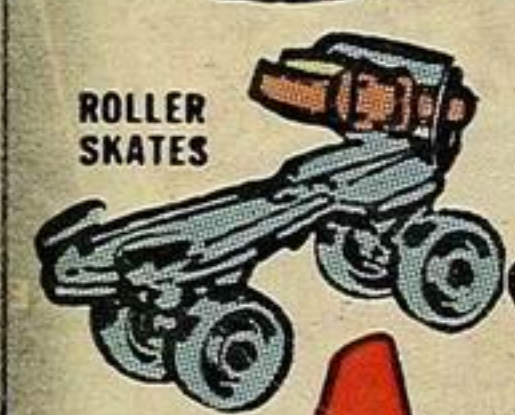


GAS MOTOR
FOR YOUR
BICYCLE



SCOUTING
EQUIPMENT

1 TUBE
RADIO SET



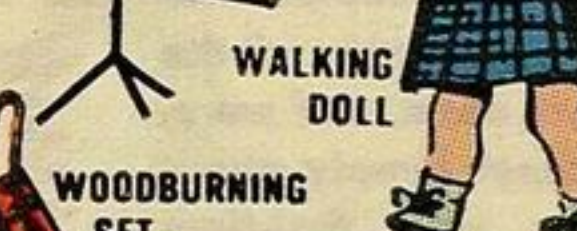
ROLLER
SKATES



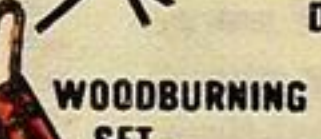
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JET PLANE
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DOLL



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Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 Mottos ON TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$6.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to EARN MONEY, send \$6.00 and keep \$2.40. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE.



TYPEWRITER



CHEMISTRY SET



21-INCH
TV SET



BOY'S
OR GIRL'S
BICYCLE

**\$1,000⁰⁰ IN
EXTRA PRIZES!**

You can get most prizes on this page by selling just one set of 24 Religious Mottos. In addition, I offer these wonderful BIG prizes! I'll tell you how you may win! All details sent free along with 24 Mottos I send you on credit.

**FREE Membership in
FUNman's Fun Club**

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and I'll give you free a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—plus extra surprises!

The FUNman, Dept. N-129
5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill. **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 30 days and select the prize. I want or keep a cash commission as explained. INCLUDE DETAILS OF HOW I MAY WIN THE EXTRA BIG PRIZES.

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Street or RFD _____

Town _____ Zone _____ State _____

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